

02

Danganronpa 2

ULTIMATE LUCK AND HOPE AND DESPAIR

Created by Spike Chunsoft

Manga by Kyoussuke Suga

Created by Spike Chunsoft

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Danganronpa 2

ULTIMATE LUCK AND HOPE AND DESPAIR



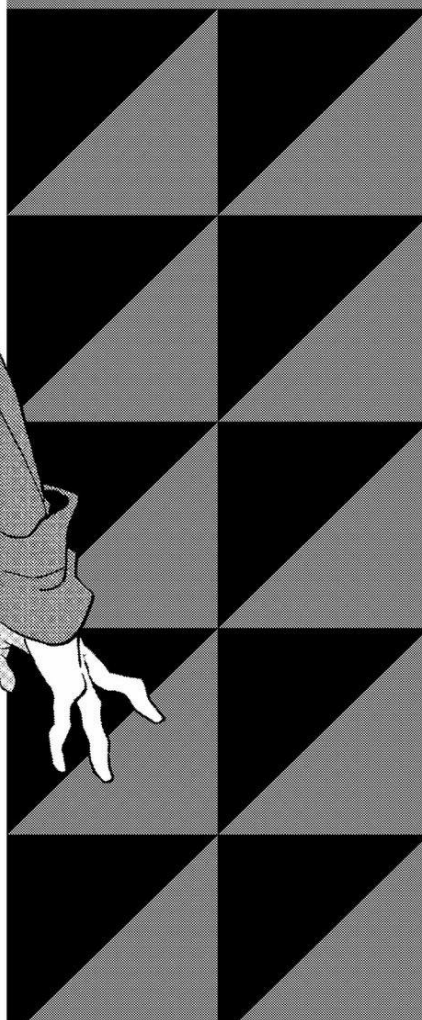
DARK HORSE MANGA

Translation by **Jackie McClure**
Lettering and touchup by **John Clark**
Edited by **Carl Gustav Horn**



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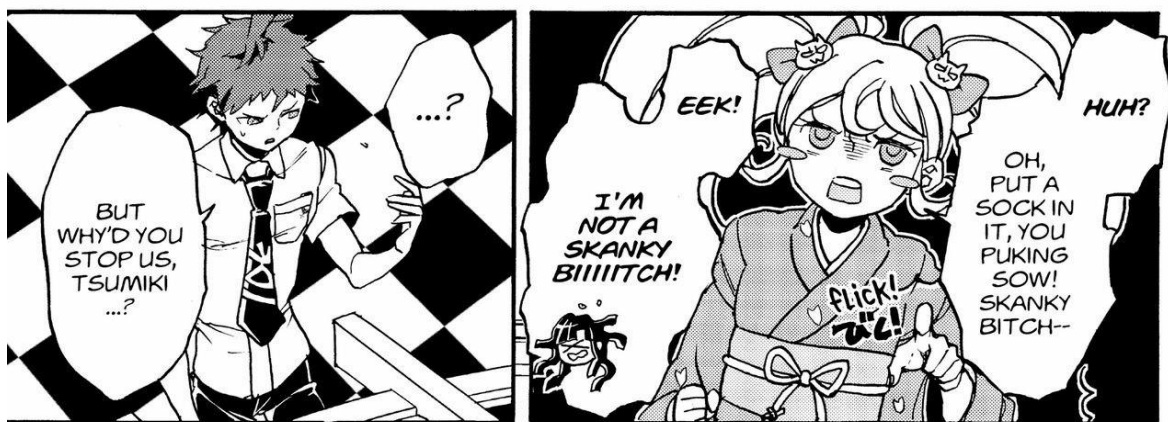
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Ep.06







...PLUS,
UM...I
FOUND THE
P-PUNCTURE
WOUNDS ON
TOGAMI
WERE 5 MM
IN DIAMETER,
REMEMBER
...?

...KOMAEDA
LOOKS
TOO, UM...
NICE...FOR
THAT.

B-BUT...
WE'VE BEEN
PROCEEDING
ON THE
P-PREMISE
THAT TOGAMI
WAS S-S-
STABBED
UNDER THE
TABLE,
BUT...



ER,
YOU DO
REALIZE
...

...HE'S
ALREADY
CON-
FESSED
...?



...HEY! NOW
THAT YOU SAY
IT, THAT KNIFE
TAPED UNDER
THE TABLE
HAD A MUCH
WIDER
BLADE...!



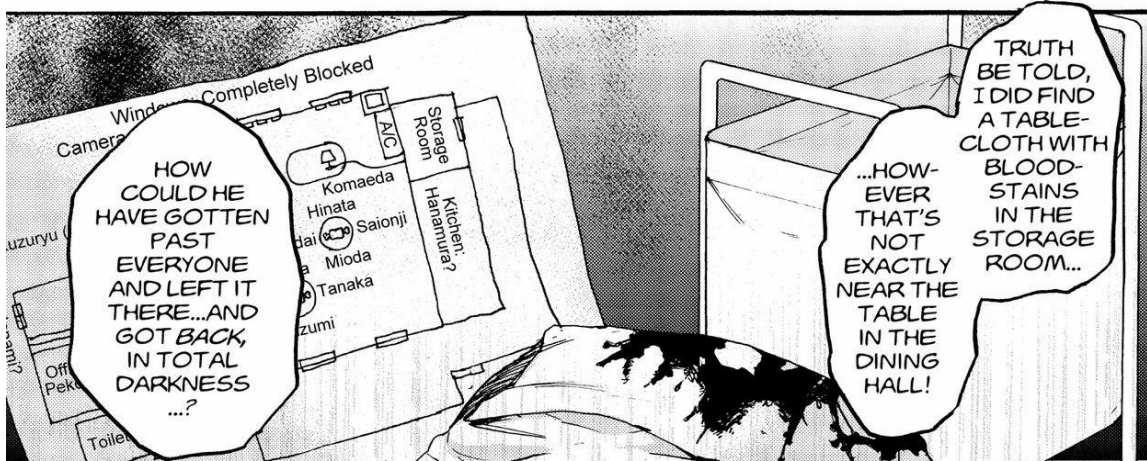
YOU
THINK I
LOOK
TOO...
NICE?

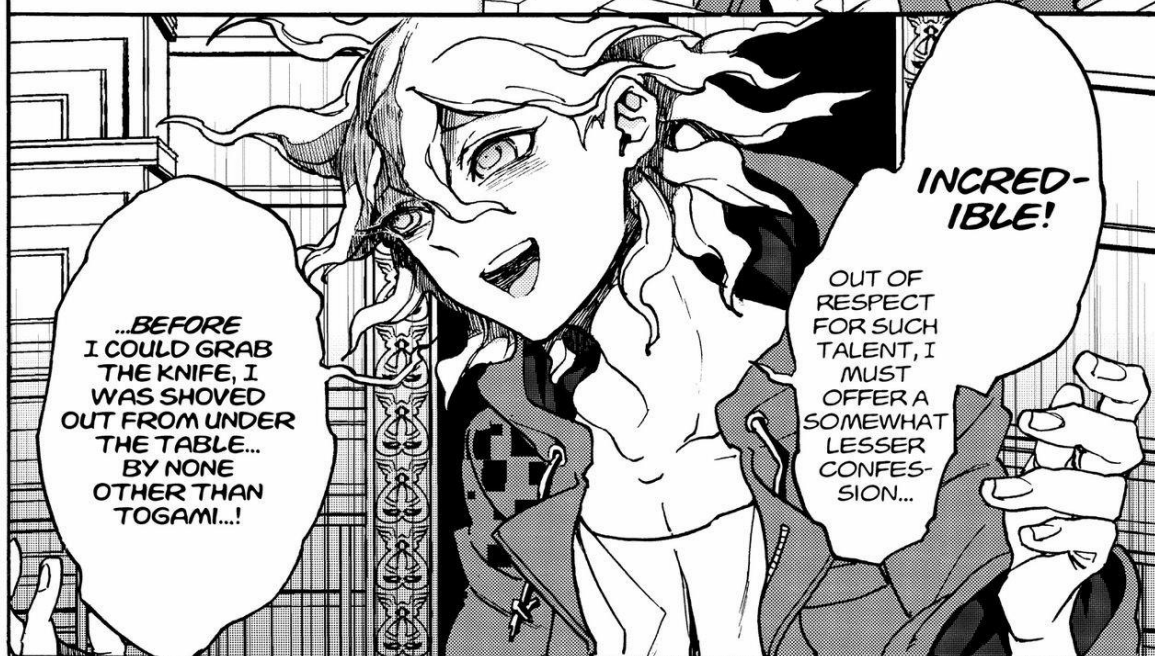
I'VE
NEVER
RECEIVED A
COMPLIMENT
FOR MY
APPEARANCE
BEFORE.

NOT
EVEN FROM
MY OWN
MOTHER.

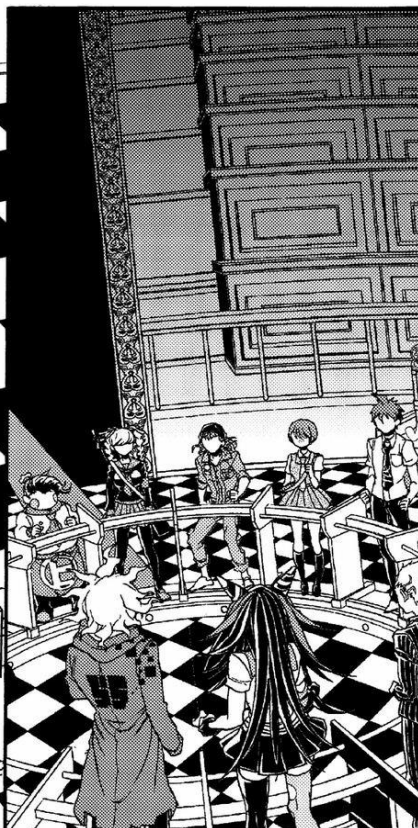
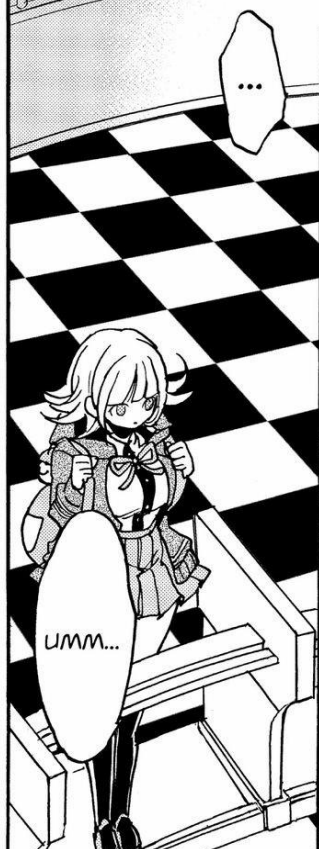
...I
DIDN'T
MEAN
NICE
AS A
PER-
SON.

UM...











EH?



...A
PLACE
UNDER THE
TABLE,
BUT NOT
DIRECTLY
UNDER
IT...

THINK!



....!



MAYBE...

...TOGAMI'S
STABBING
DIDN'T
OCCUR
RIGHT
BENEATH
THE
TABLE.



HEY,
TANAKA...

AREN'T
YOU NOW
WEARING...
THAT
EARRING YOU
SAID YOU HAD
DROPPED
BETWEEN
THE FLOOR-
BOARDS IN
THE DINING
HALL...?



....!



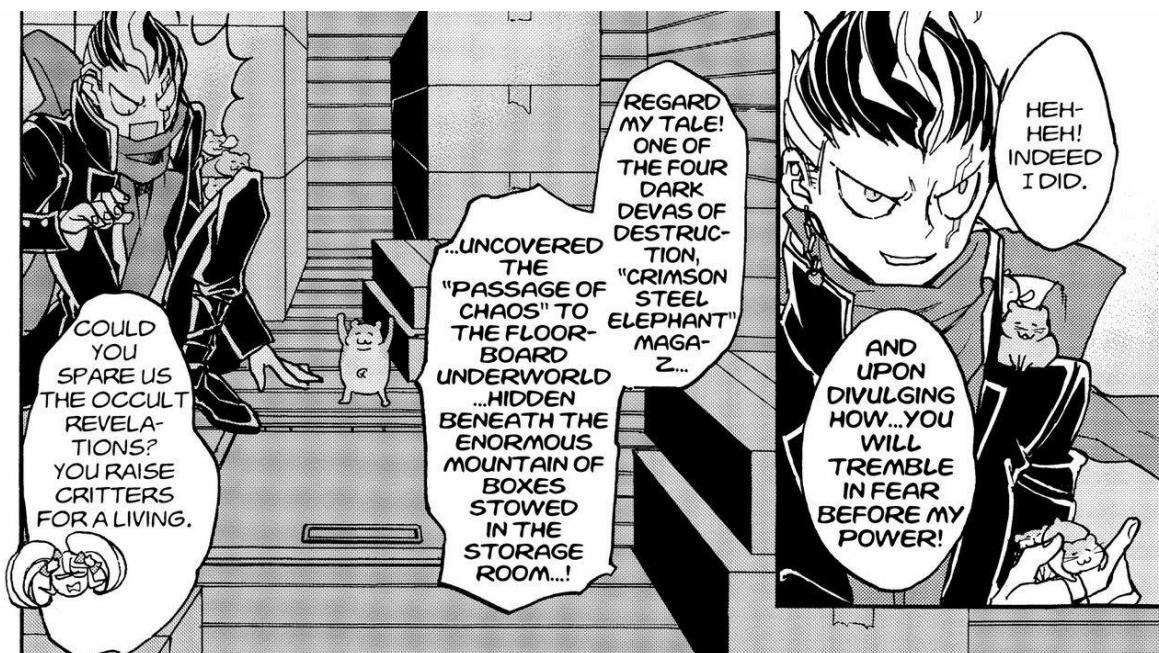
...DOESN'T
IT MEAN YOU
FOUND A WAY
UNDER THE
FLOOR-
BOARDS?

YEAH.

AND IF
YOU'RE
WEARING
IT NOW...



...YOU
MEAN MY
HELL
HOUND
EARRING
?





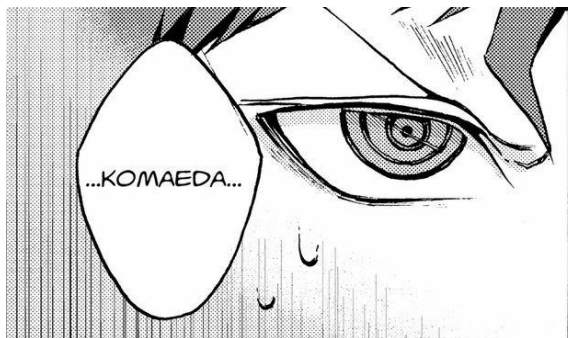


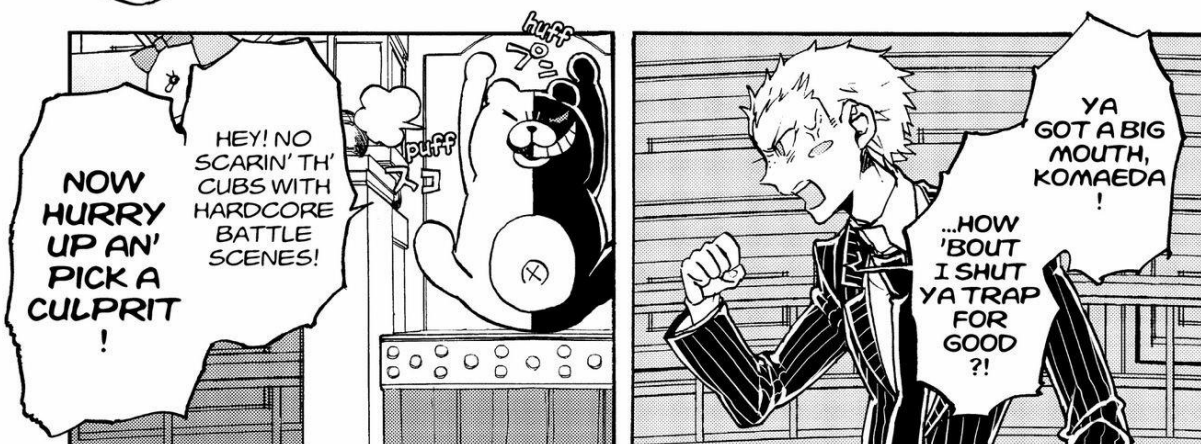


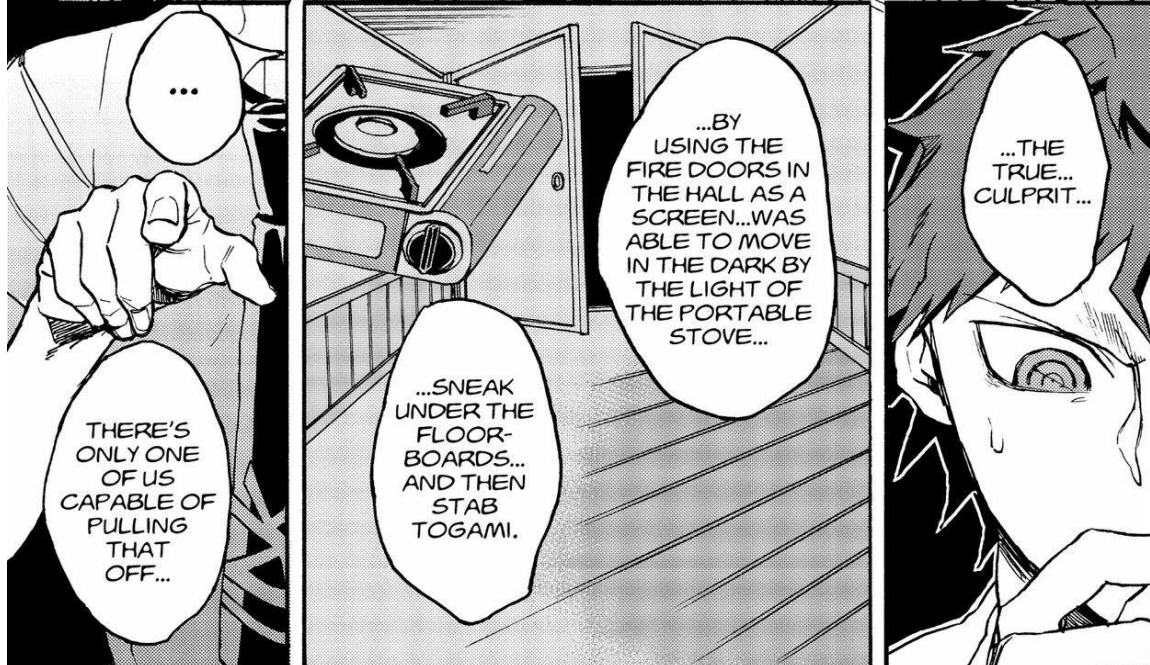




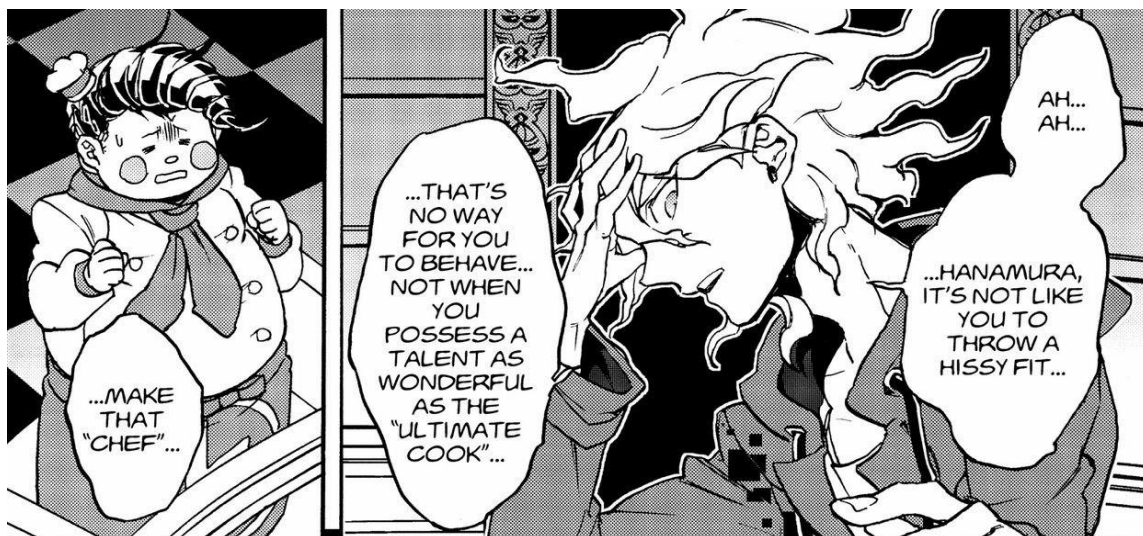


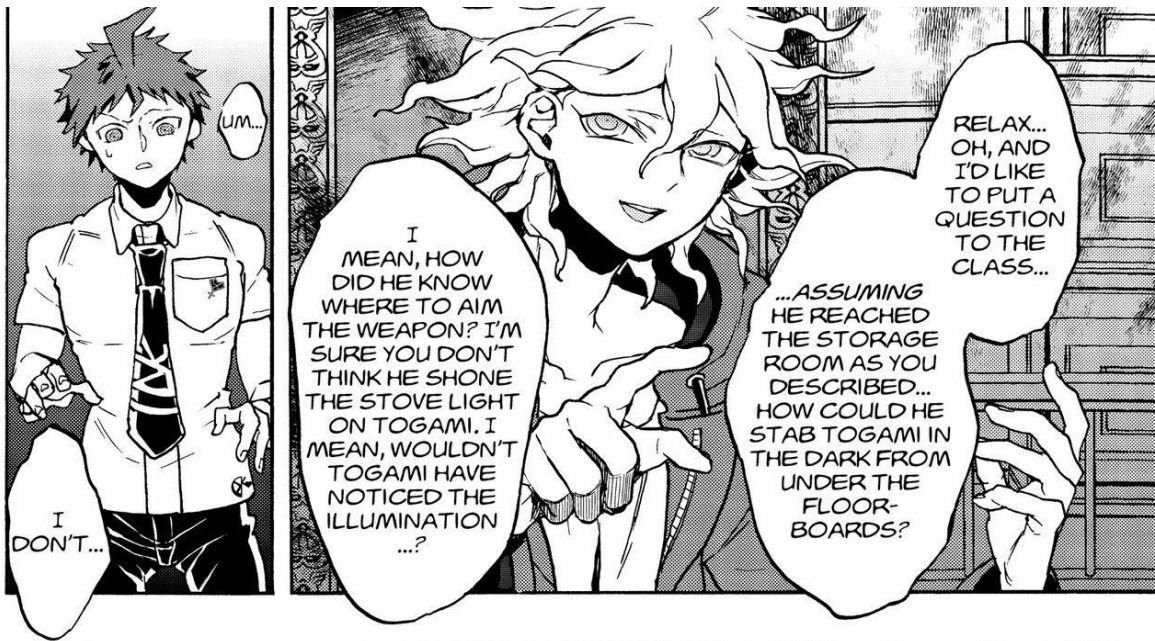






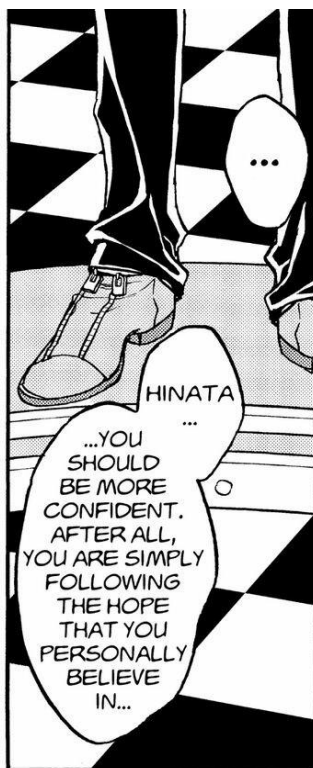


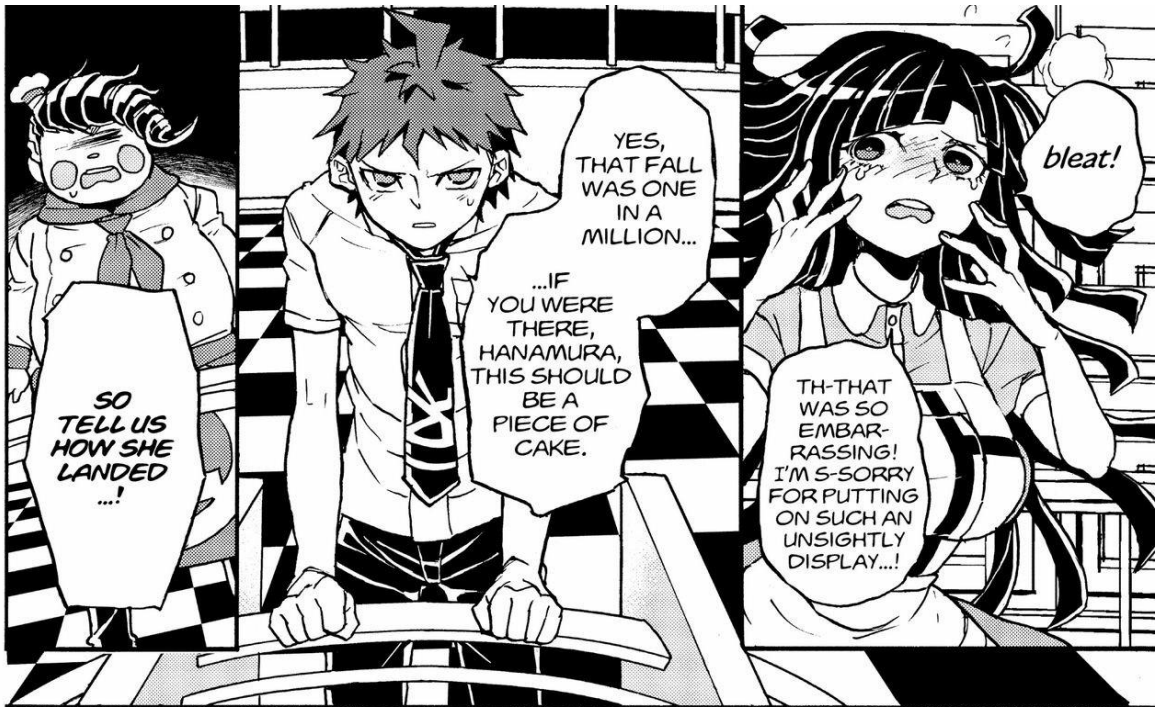










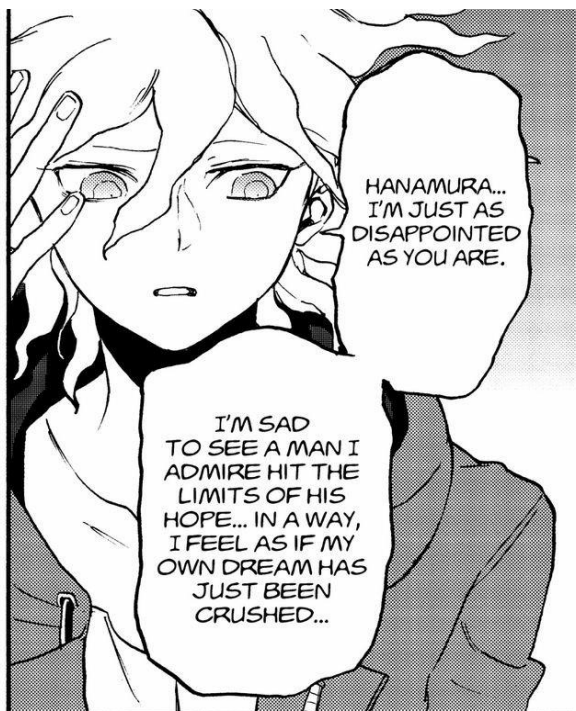




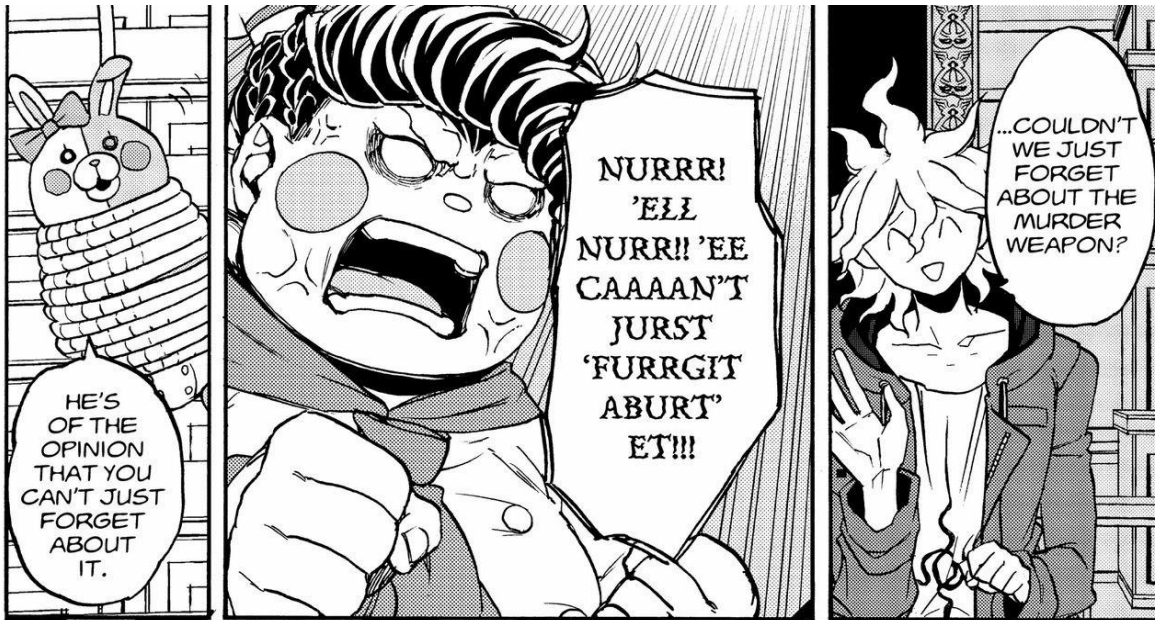
AH...
AH...AND
HERE I'D
EXPECTED
BETTER...

...YOU
MIGHT
AS WELL
GIVE UP
NOW...

EH...?!







HE'S
OF THE
OPINION
THAT YOU
CAN'T JUST
FORGET
ABOUT
IT.

NURRR!
'ELL
NURR!! 'EE
CAAAAN'T
JURST
'FURRGIT
ABURT'
ET!!!

...COULDN'T
WE JUST
FORGET
ABOUT THE
MURDER
WEAPON?



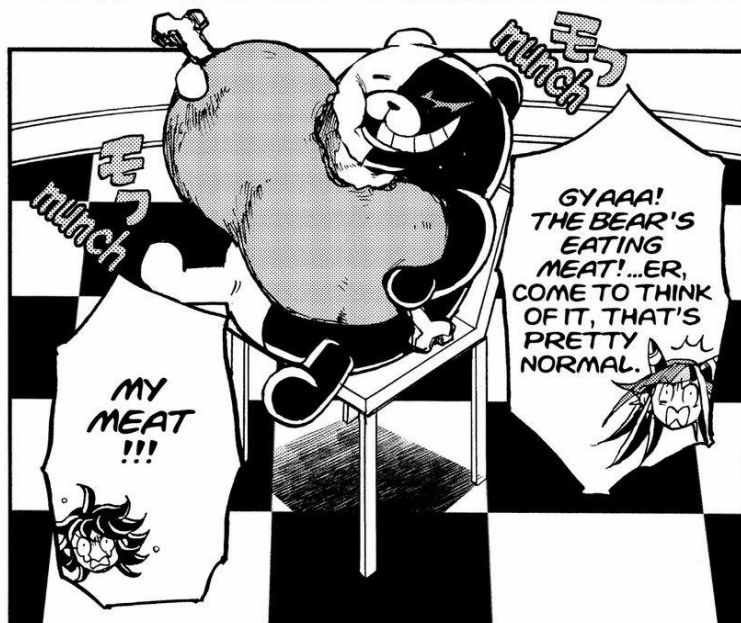
D-D-
DERPITY
DERP!

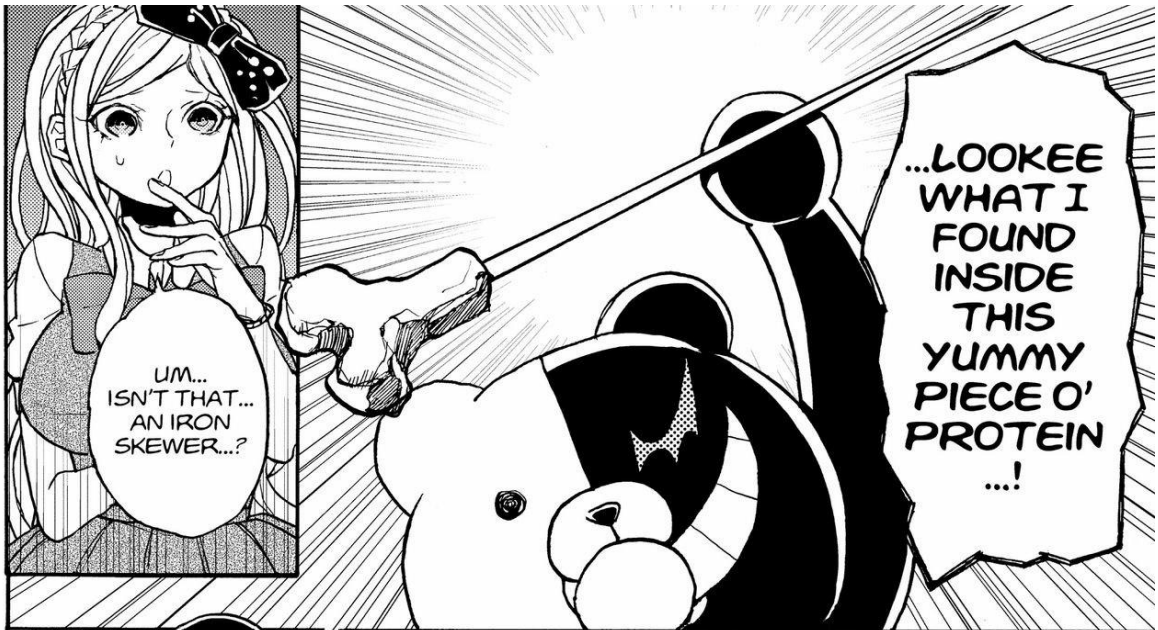
ALL RIGHT,
THEN. THE
MURDER
WEAPON... BY
ANY CHANCE,
WAS IT AN
IRON
SKEWER?

AND I'M
CERTAIN
THAT IT'S
HIDDEN...

AN
IRON
SKEWER
WOULD ALSO
MATCH
THE STAB
WOUNDS
DESCRIBED
IN TSUMIKI'S
AUTOPSY...

AS I
RECALL,
WEREN'T YOU
THE ONE WHO
CLAIMED THERE
WAS A SKEWER
MISSING,
HANAMURA...?





UM...
ISN'T THAT...
AN IRON
SKEWER...?

...LOOKEE
WHAT I
FOUND
INSIDE
THIS
YUMMY
PIECE O'
PROTEIN
...!



T-
THERE...
MUST BE
SOME
SORT OF
MISTAKE...

...TO
THINK...
I'D TAKE
SOMEONE'S
LIFE...I
COULDN'T
POSSIBLY
TAKE A...
TAKE A...

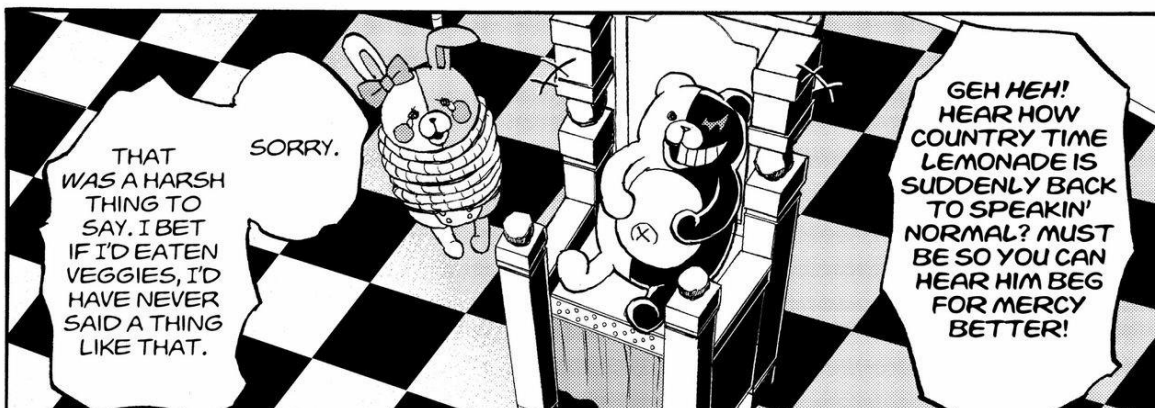


MOST
IMPRESSIONING,
HANAMURA!
IT'S A FANTASTIC
WEAPON, WORTHY
OF THE ULTIMATE
"CHEF"...



VERILY!
HILT OF
BONE,
SCABBARD
OF
FLESH...!

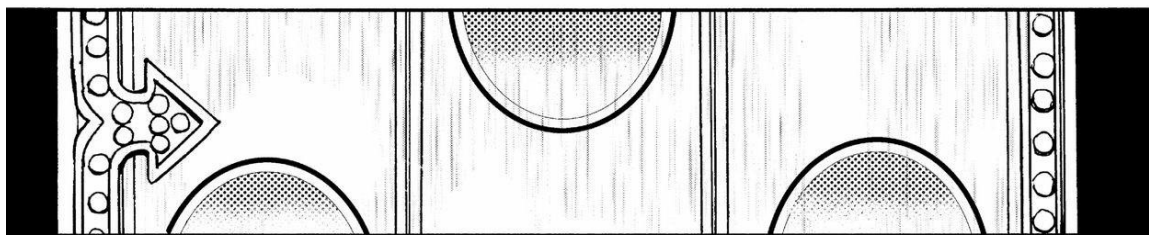
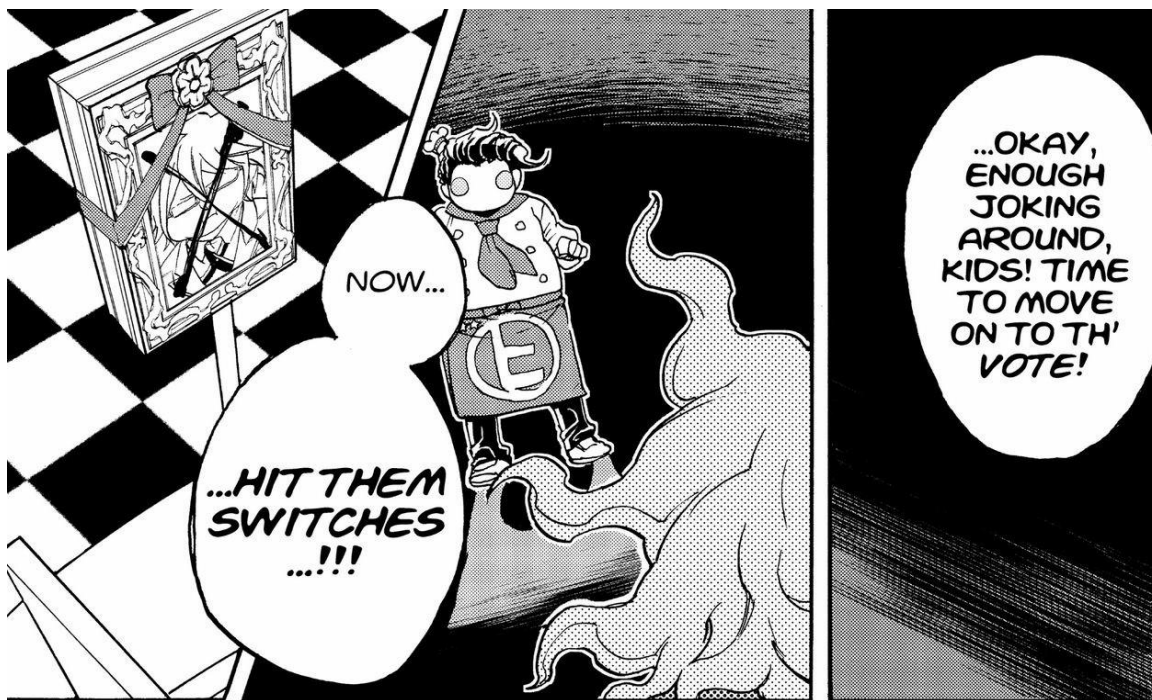
A
SWORD OF
DESTRUC-
TION YOU
BROUGHT
DOWN UPON
TOGAMI...!



THAT
WAS A HARSH
THING TO
SAY. I BET
IF I'D EATEN
VEGGIES, I'D
HAVE NEVER
SAID A THING
LIKE THAT.

SORRY.

GEH HEH!
HEAR HOW
COUNTRY TIME
LEMONADE IS
SUDDENLY BACK
TO SPEAKIN'
NORMAL? MUST
BE SO YOU CAN
HEAR HIM BEG
FOR MERCY
BETTER!





IT...

...IT'S
NOT
WHAT
YOU
THINK...

...I...
WAS JUST
TRYING
TO SAVE
EVERYONE...



WELL,
TERUTERU
HANAMURA...

...LOOKS
LIKE YA
HIT THE
JACKPOT
!!!



I
WAS...

...ONLY
TRYING
TO STOP
KOMAEDA!
HE WAS
PLANNING
TO KILL
SOMEONE
!!!

...WHAT...?



...THAT
HE'D GET
THE KILLING
STARTED,
NO MATTER
WHAT...!

BUT
HE...HE
INSISTED
THERE
WAS NO
STOPPING
HIM
NOW...

I-I...
WALKED IN
ON KOMAEDA
SETTING
UP THE
KNIFE...!



WELL
...

...HOW
CAN I
PUT
IT?

WHAT'S
THIS ALL
ABOUT,
KOMAEDA
...?!

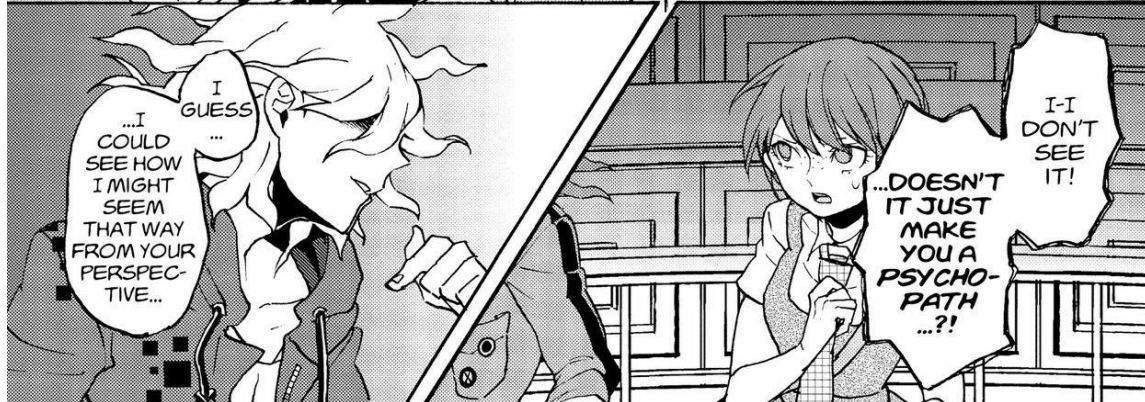


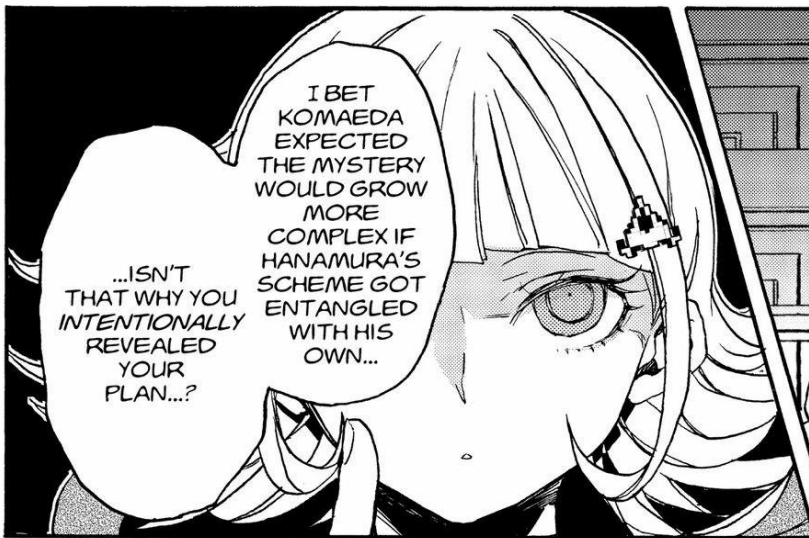
YOU
SEE...I AM
PURSUING THE
"POWERFUL
HOPE"... THAT
CAN OVERCOME
ANY
DESPAIR.

...I ONLY
PLANNED
TO COMMIT
MURDER OUT
OF THE DESIRE
TO SEE
EVERYONE
EXPERIENCE
HOPE.

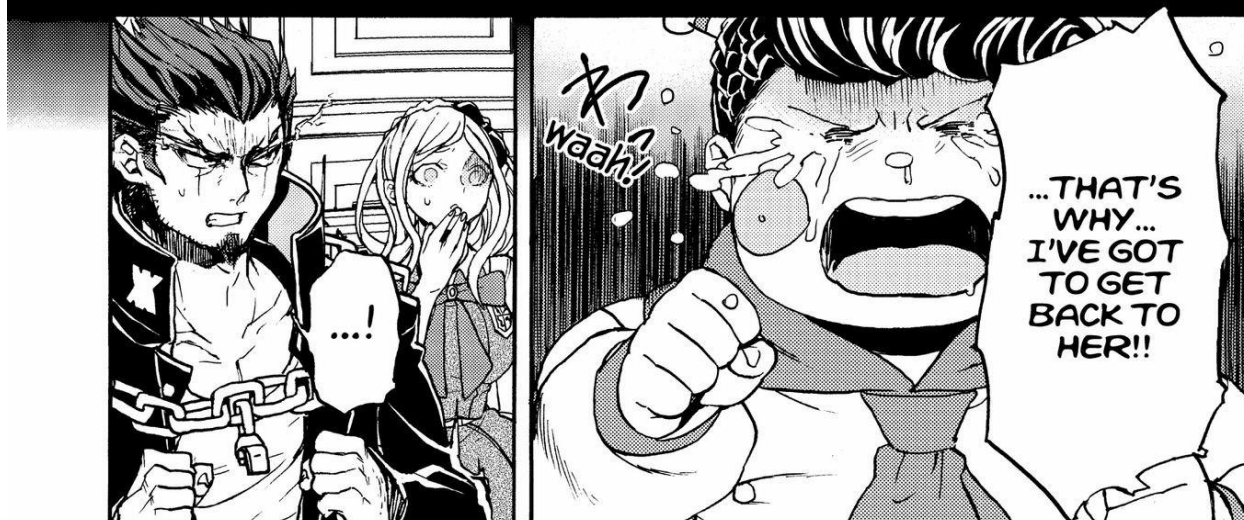
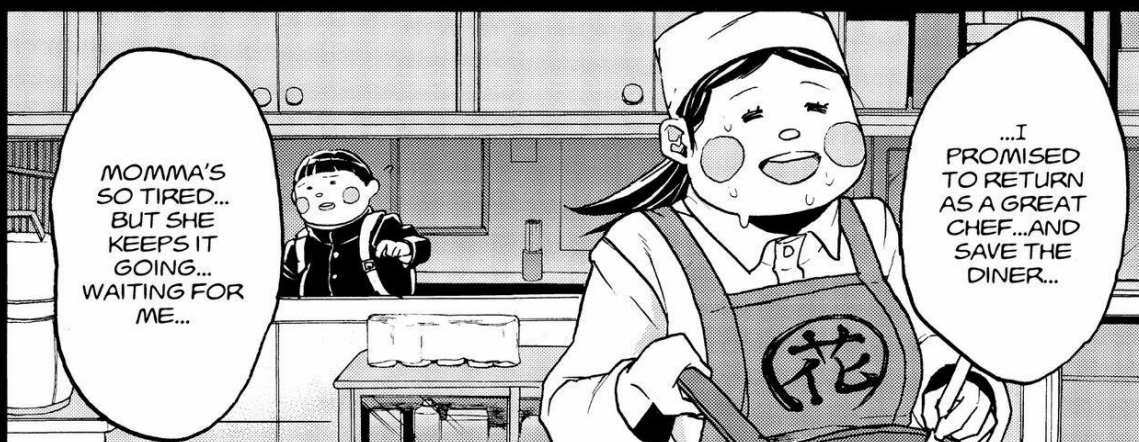
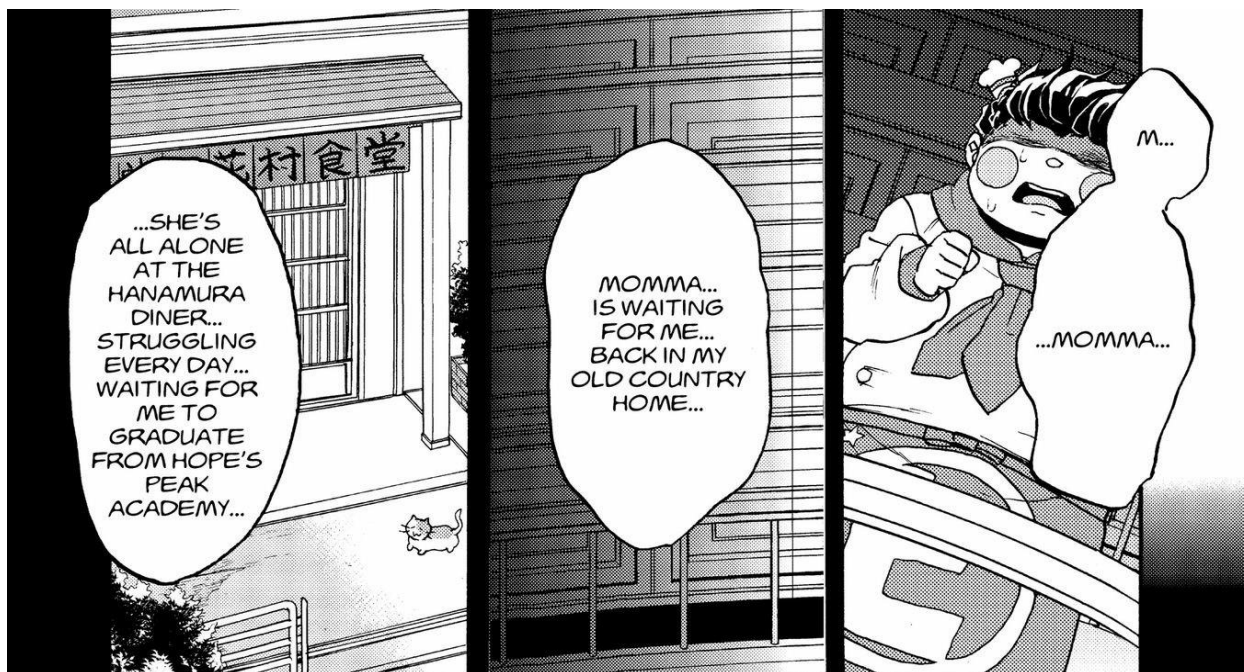
WORTHLESS
SCUM SUCH
AS I COULD
NEVER SHINE...
WHICH IS WHY
I LONG TO
SEE ALL OF
YOU SHINE
INSTEAD...!

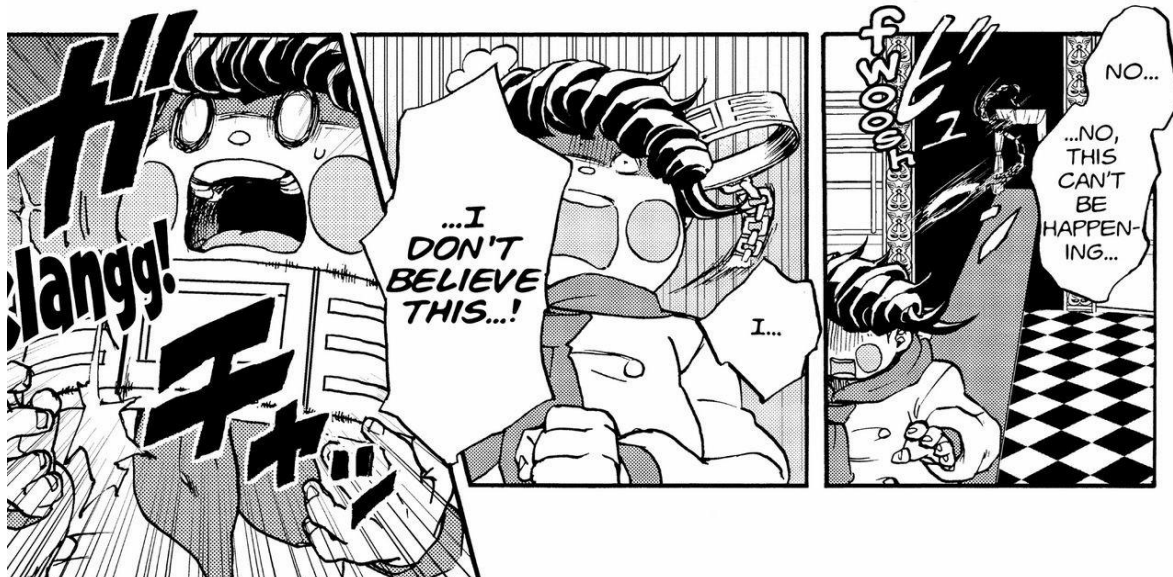
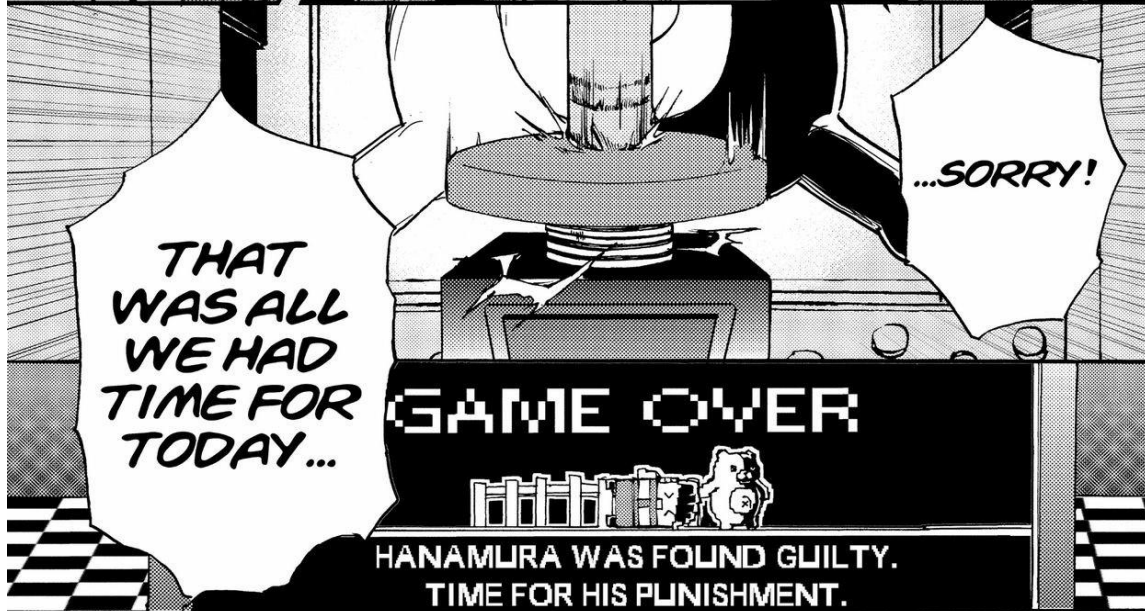




















MOST
FOLKS CALL
IT FINGER
LICKIN'
GOOD!!!!

I
FOUND
A WAY
TO COOK
STUDENTS
DEEP
DOWN!



H-
HANA-
MURA-
AAA!

THAT...
WAS TOO
CRUEL...!

KYAAA!
HOW
COULD
YOU...!

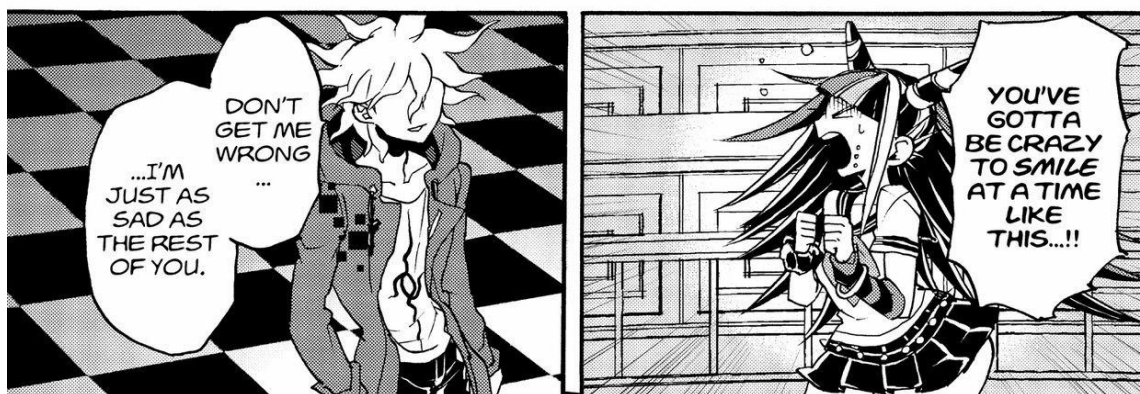
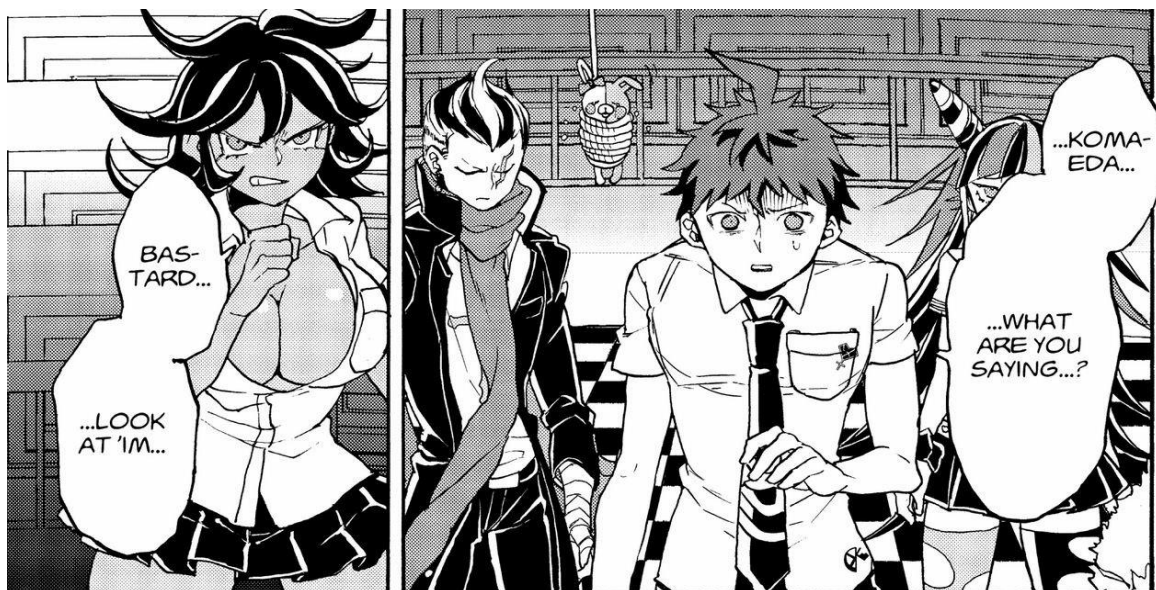
HANA-
MURA...



A DESPAIR...
OF TRULY
HOPELESS
PROPORTIONS.

...THIS
OUTCOME...
IS FILLED
WITH
DESPAIR...







...WHA
--?!

I'VE
ALREADY
DECIDED TO
SERVE AS A
STEPPING
STONE FOR
YOU GUYS...

GO
FOR IT. IF
YOU HATE
ME, FEEL
FREE TO KILL
ME ANYTIME
YOU LIKE.

STOP
SPEWIN'
DAT
CREEPY
SHIT
ALREADY!

I'LL
FREAKIN'
KILL
YA...!

G-
GIVE
IT A
REST...

SERI-
OUSLY...
YOU'RE
MAKING
ME
SICK...

...BUT
IF YOU'RE
GOING TO
STRIKE ME
DOWN, WOULD
YOU MIND
CONSULTING
WITH ME
BEFORE-
HAND...?

...YOU
KNOW, THAT
WAY I COULD
OFFER MY
ASSISTANCE...

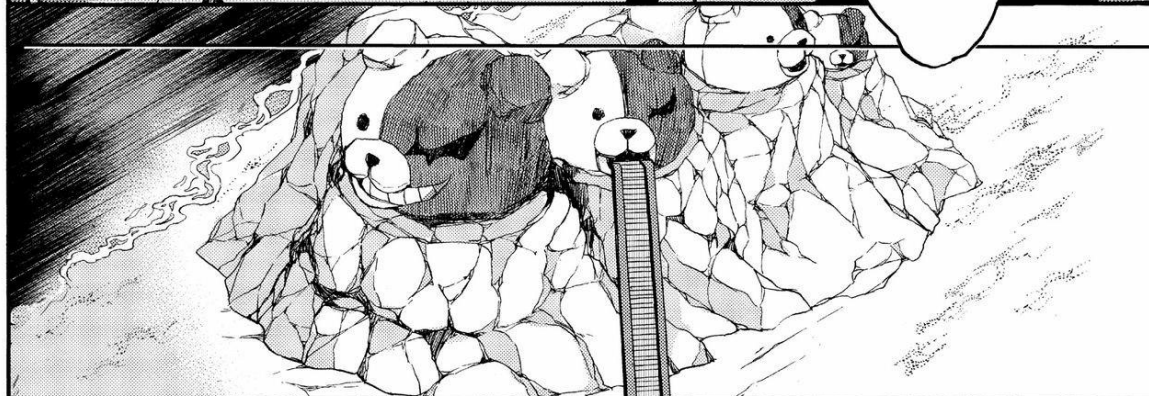
HEY!

CAN
I SOCK
'IM? I
WON'T FEEL
BETTER
'TIL I
SMACK THIS
FREAK AT
LEAST
ONCE!!

...WITH AN
INSIGNIFICANT
TALENT SUCH
AS MINE... THAN
TO SERVE AS
THE FOUNDATION
USED TO
ELEVATE YOUR
VALUE!!

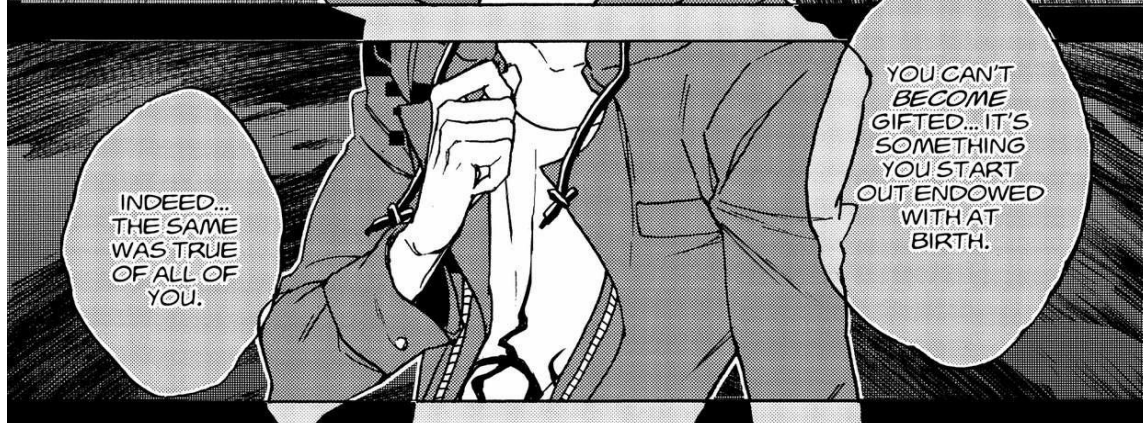
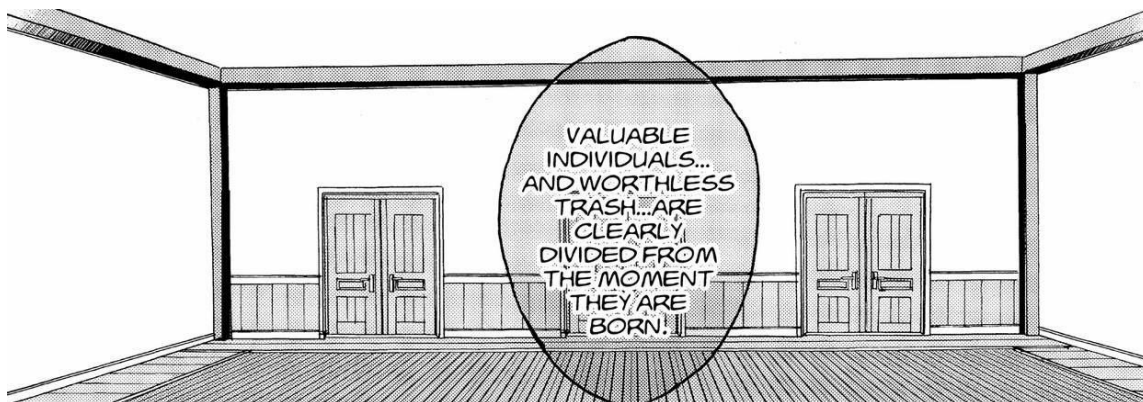
...THERE
COULD
BE NO
GREATER
HONOR
FOR
SOME-
ONE...





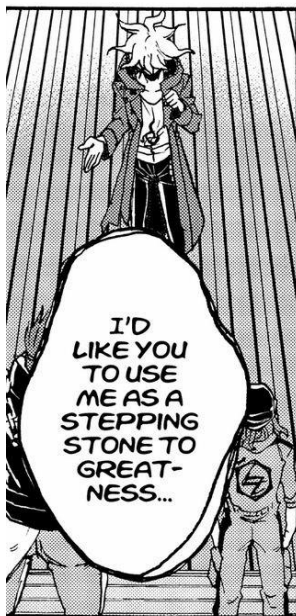
SURVIVING STUDENTS: 14





Ep.09





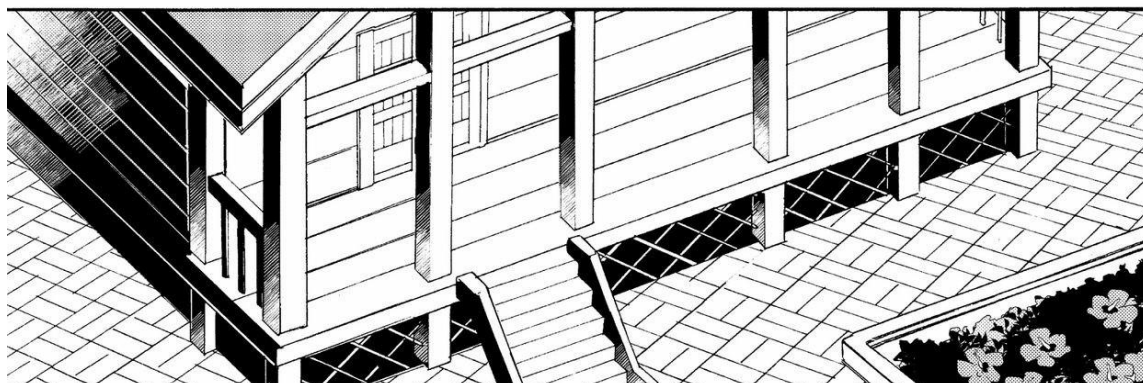
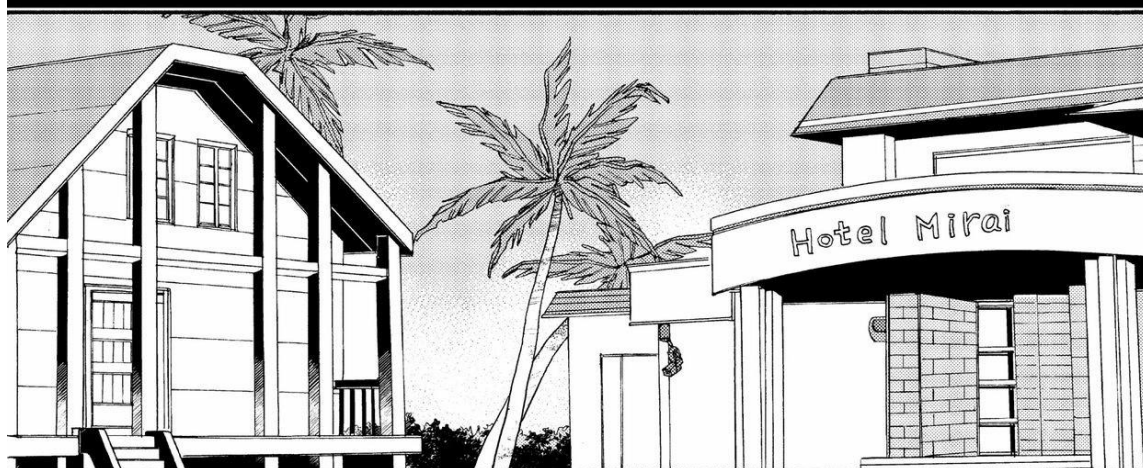


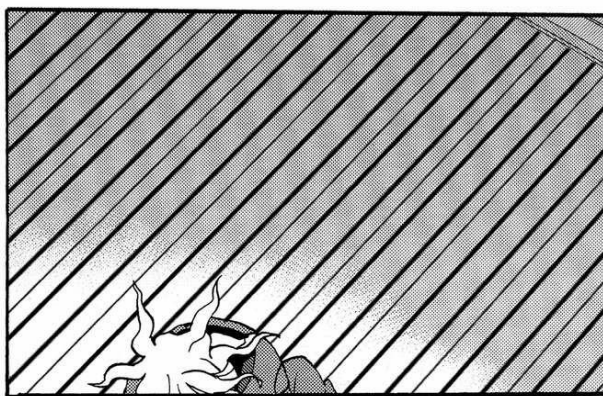
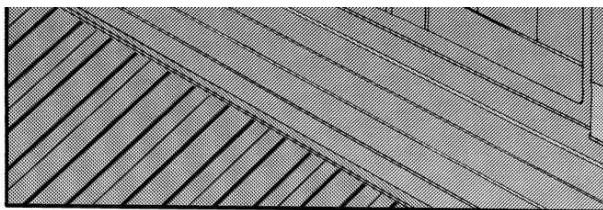
S...

Whoosh !!

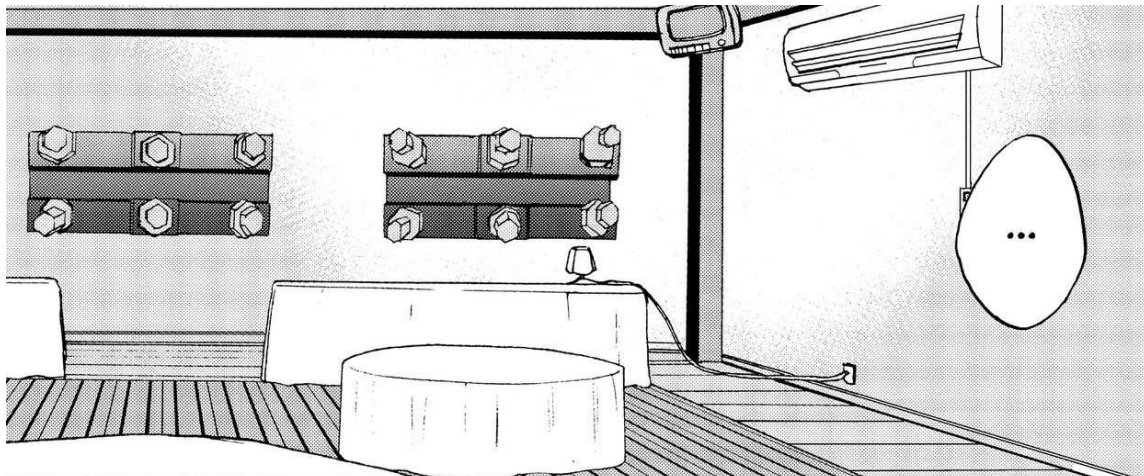
...SHUT
YOUR
MOUTH
ALREADY
!!!

pow!!

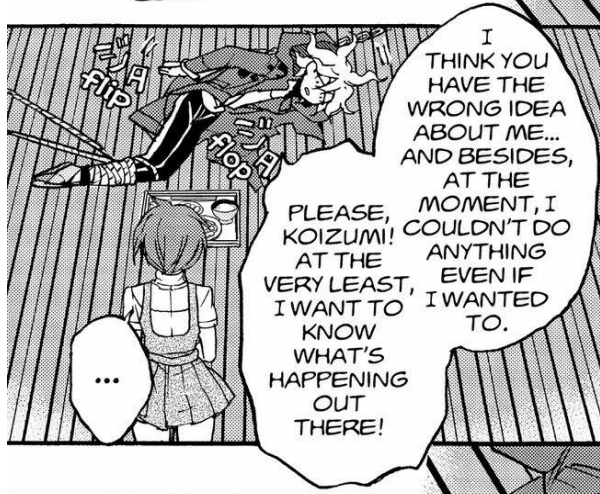
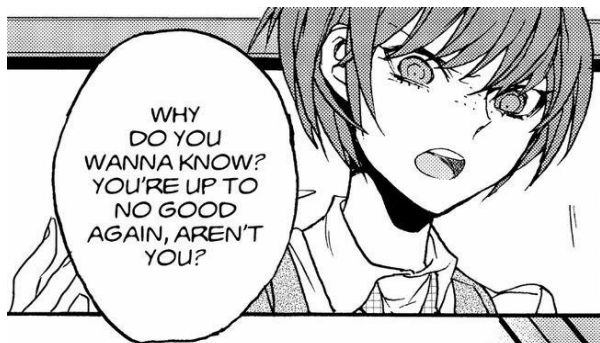




*Haven't I
been stuck
like this for a
day... maybe
two, now... ?*

















Ep.10



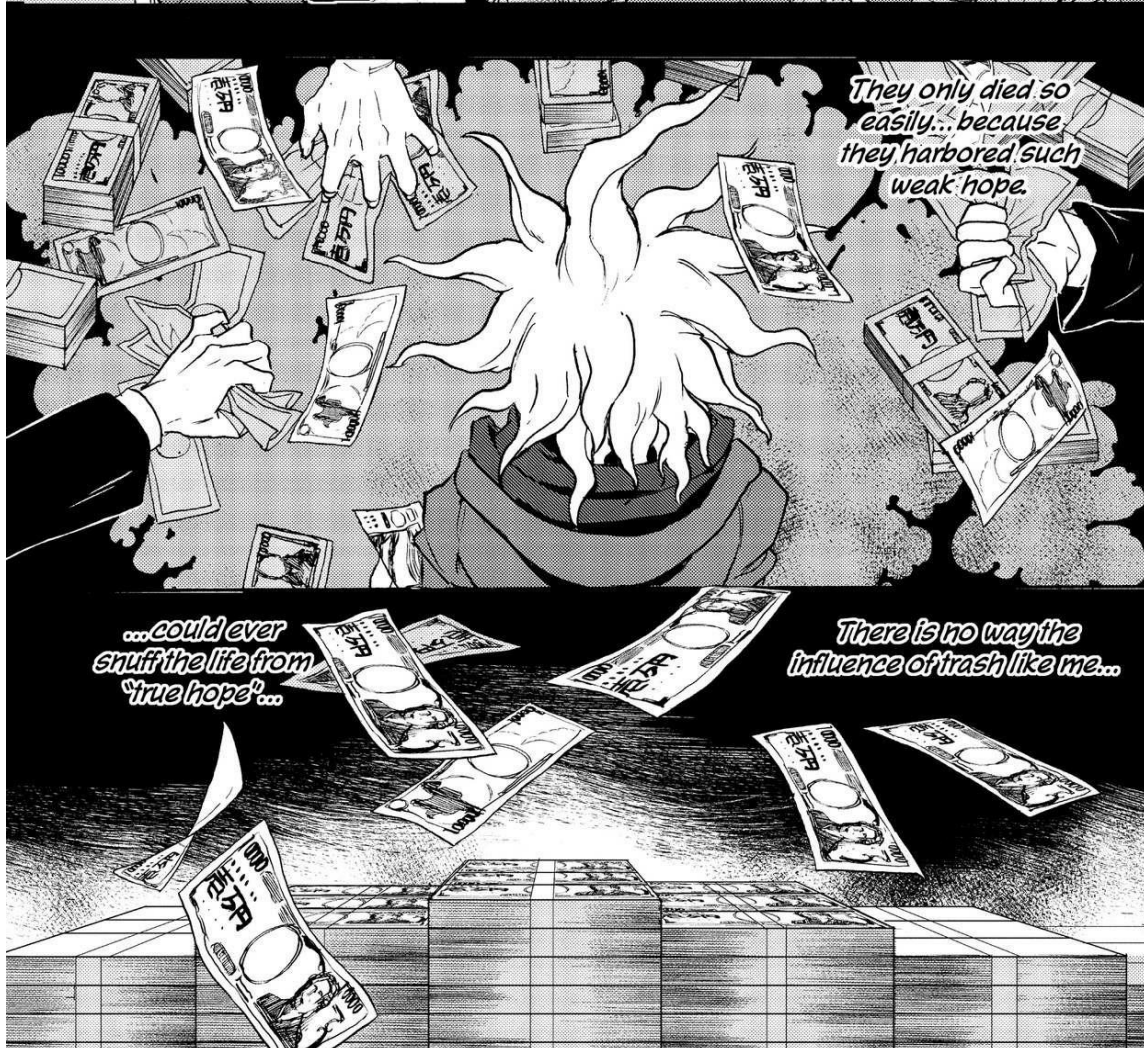
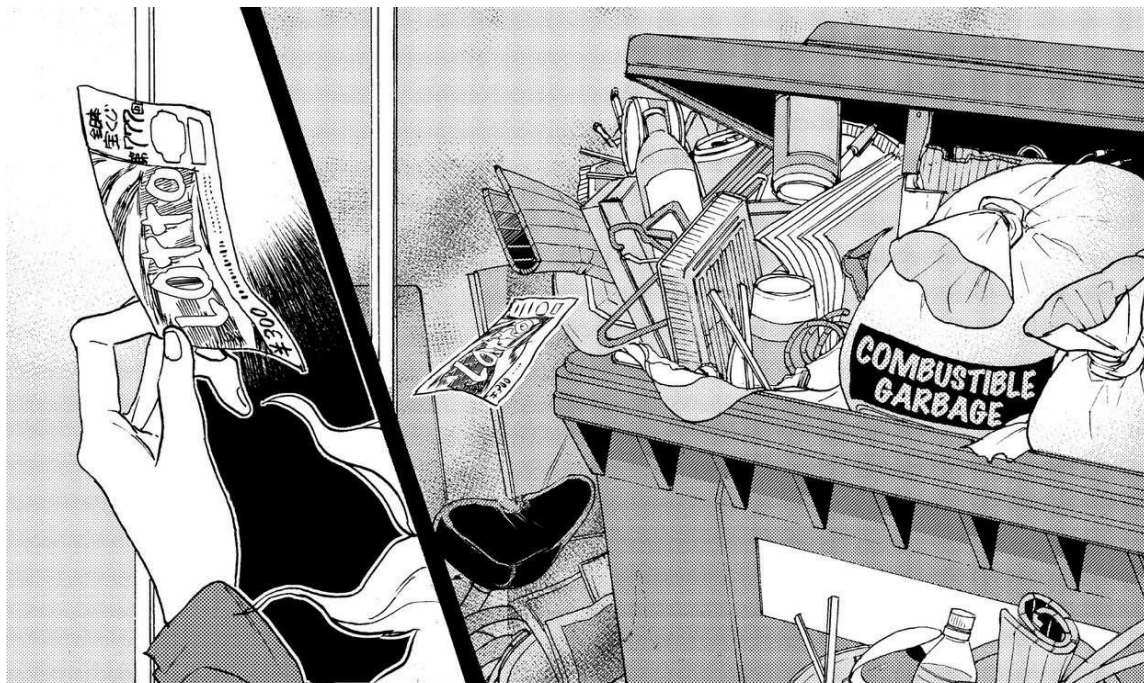








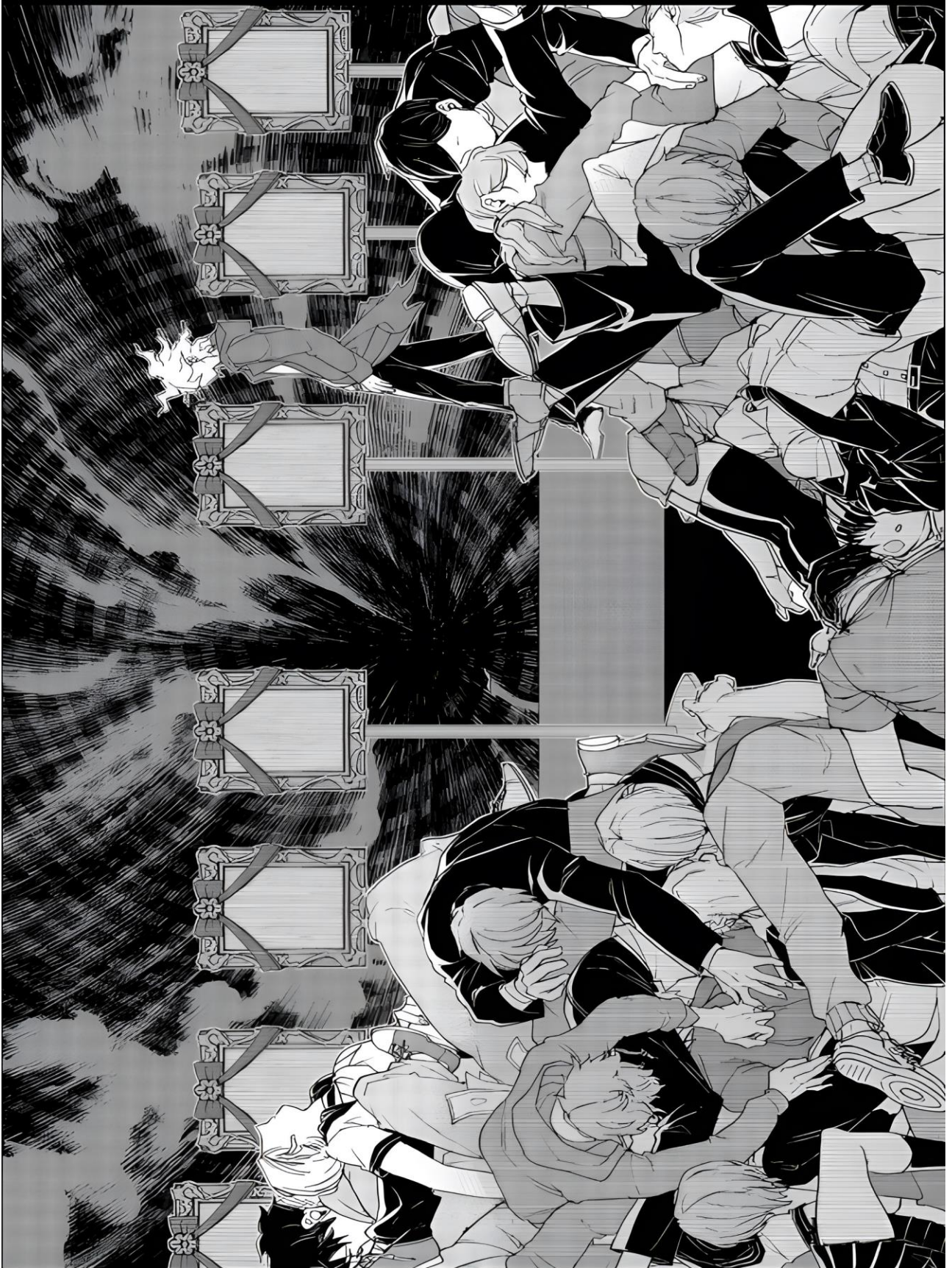


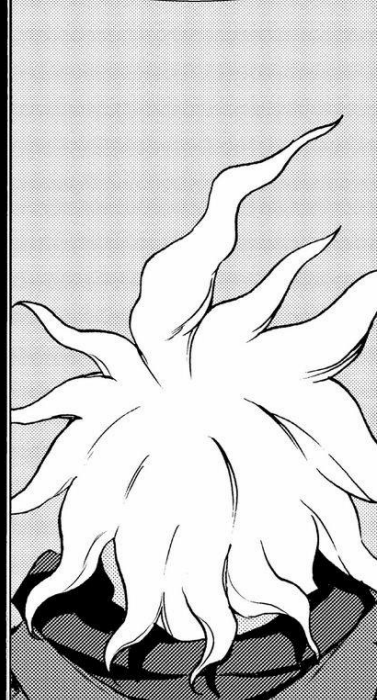


They only died so easily... because they harbored such weak hope.

...could ever snuff the life from "true hope"...

There is no way the influence of trash like me...



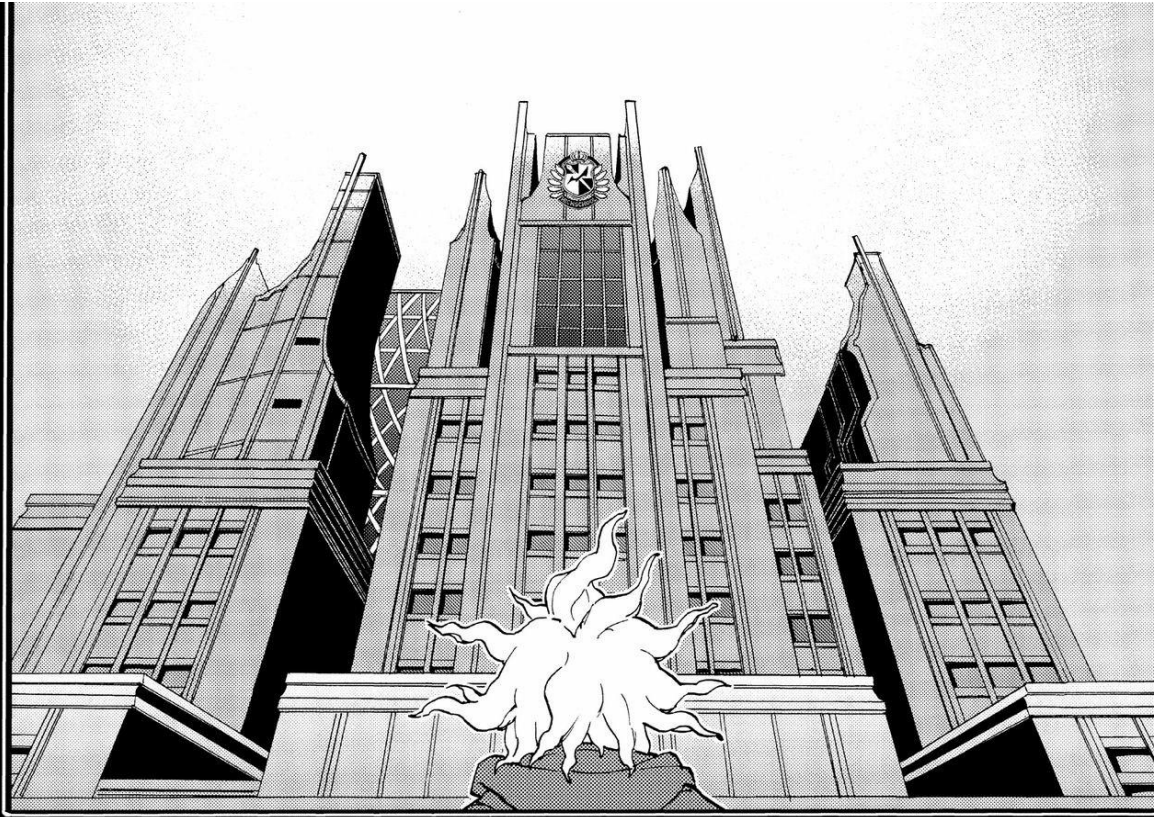




This year our school has decided
to select one average student
through a lottery.

As the winner of that lottery, we
would like to welcome you to our
school as the "Ultimate Lucky Student."

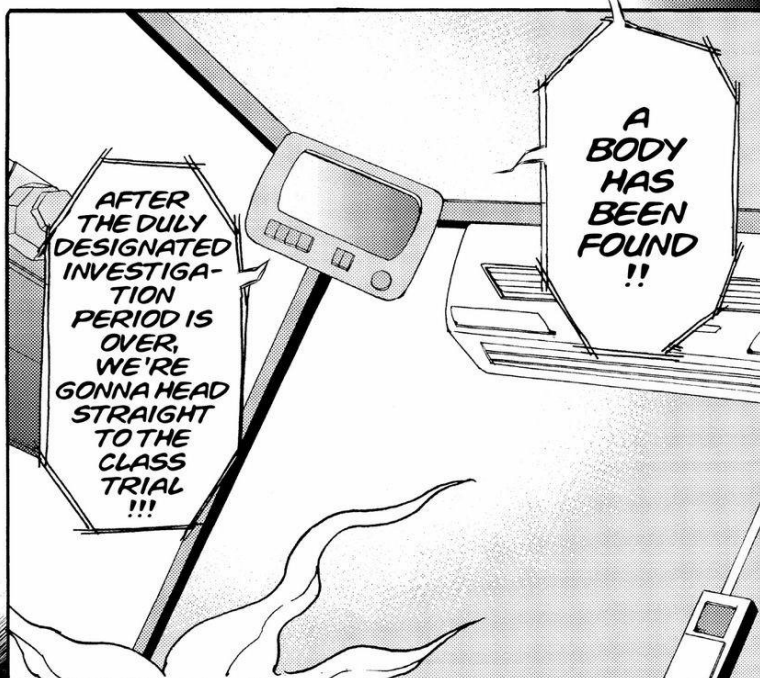




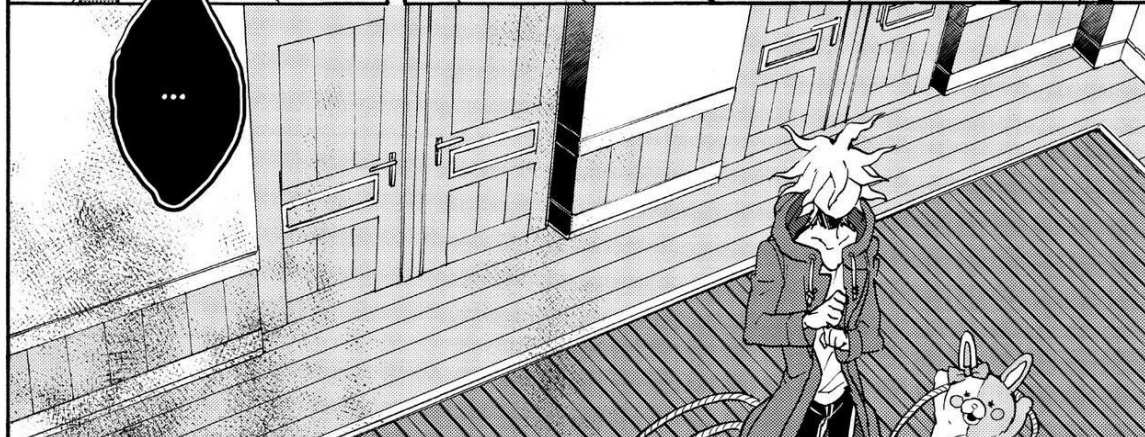
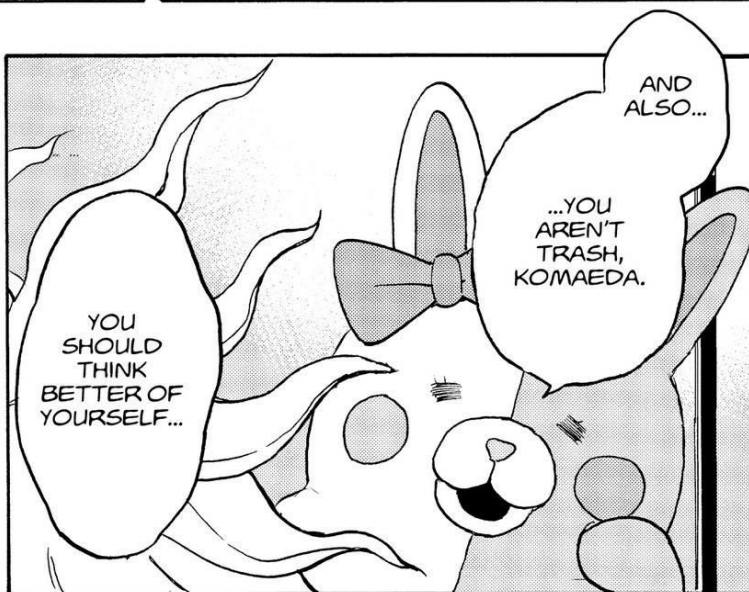
clutch

!!











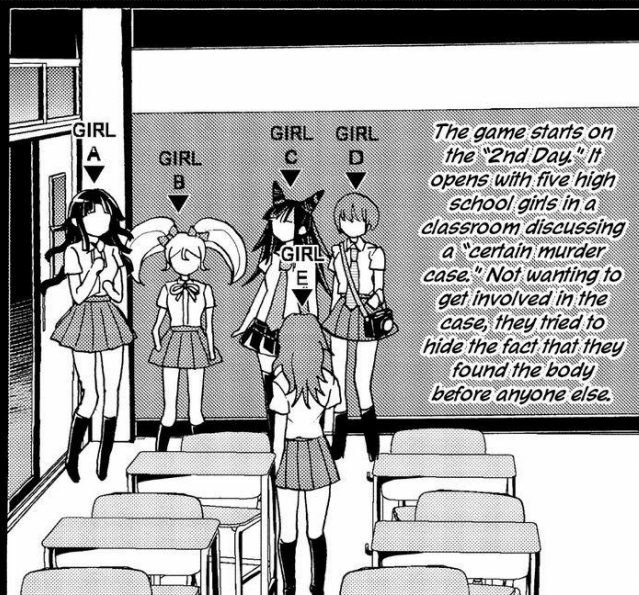
TWILIGHT SYNDROME
トワイライト・シンドローム
殺人事件

MURDER CASE

INVESTIGATION
EDITION



Ep.11





Inside, they found the body of a female student who had been killed by a blow to the head.

The door was locked, so Girl D had to get the key before they could finally get in.



Girl E is already up there, and claims that she heard the sound come from the Music Room.

On the "1st Day," Girls A, B, C, and D race to the second floor at the sound of shattering glass.

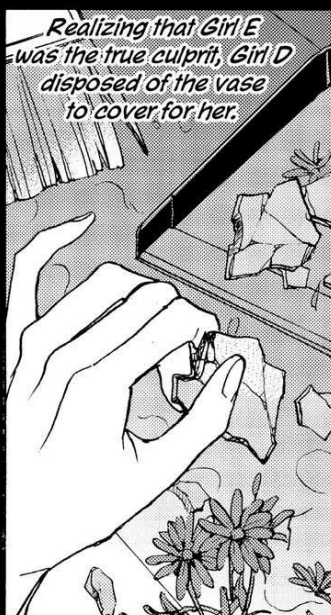
That's the "certain murder case" they were discussing on the "2nd Day."



It was mentioned in the paper the next day that Girl E's swimsuit had been stolen earlier, prompting the theory that the theft was a preliminary crime by the murderer, motivated by perversion.

Seeing as the Music Room window was broken, the girls assumed that was the killer's escape route.

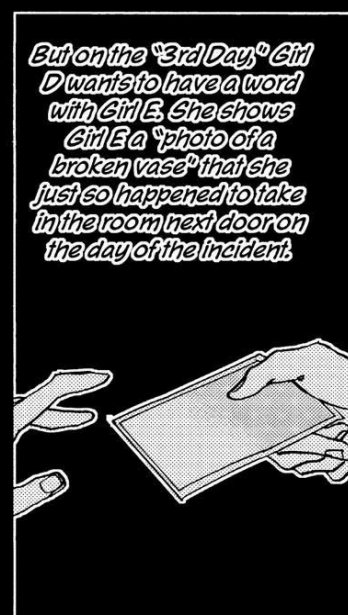
The school paper's headlines read "HIGH SCHOOL GIRL CLUDGEED... UNPRECEDENTED TRAGEDY AT A PEACEFUL SCHOOL... MUSIC GOES UNHEARD... LACROSSE TEAM SENDS FLOWERS... TEACHERLESS EDUCATION."



Realizing that Girl E was the true culprit, Girl D disposed of the vase to cover for her.



On the day of the murder, the breaking glass they heard wasn't a window, but a vase...



But on the "3rd Day," Girl D wants to have a word with Girl E. She shows Girl E a "photo of a broken vase" that she just so happened to take in the room next door on the day of the incident.

The "1st Day" and "3rd Day" were the "missing links" that served as the motive this time around... They revealed "hidden relationships."

I
AIN'T
GONNA
NEVER
FORGIVE
THIS
...!

THAT
BITCH...
WHAT
THE HELL
DID SHE
DO TO MY
LITTLE
SISTER
?!

When "Boy F" went to the dumpster sometime later, he found the photo of the vase they had thrown away...

BOY
F
?!

The second "Kuzuryu" probably refers to Boy F's little sister, who was killed at the very beginning.

GIRL
D

GIRL
C

GIRL
B

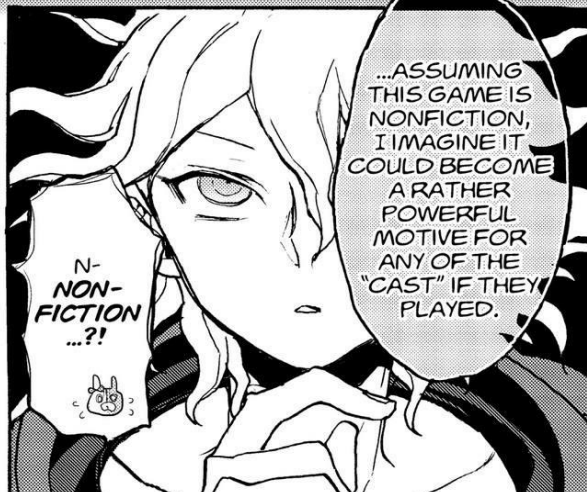
GIRL
A

Finally, during the staff roll in the game credits... the cast listed "Tsumiki, Koizumi, Saionji, Mioda, Sato, Kuzuryu, and Kuzuryu..."



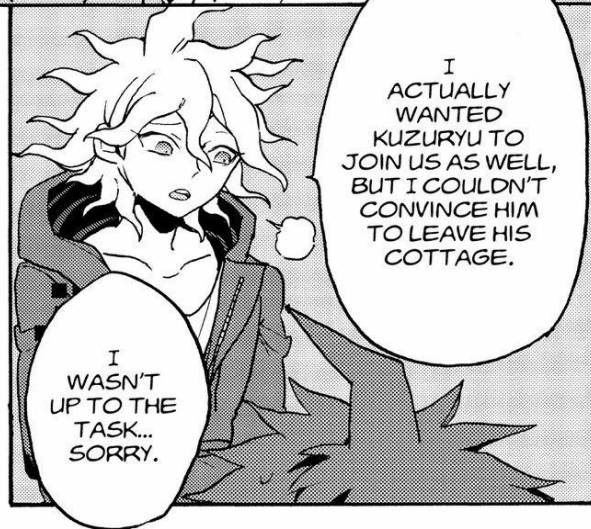
...YUP!

EVEN
WITH
A LATE
START,
CONGRATS
ON
BEATIN'
THE
GAME!



N-
NON-
FICTION
...?!

...ASSUMING
THIS GAME IS
NONFICTION,
I IMAGINE IT
COULD BECOME
A RATHER
POWERFUL
MOTIVE FOR
ANY OF THE
"CAST" IF THEY
PLAYED.



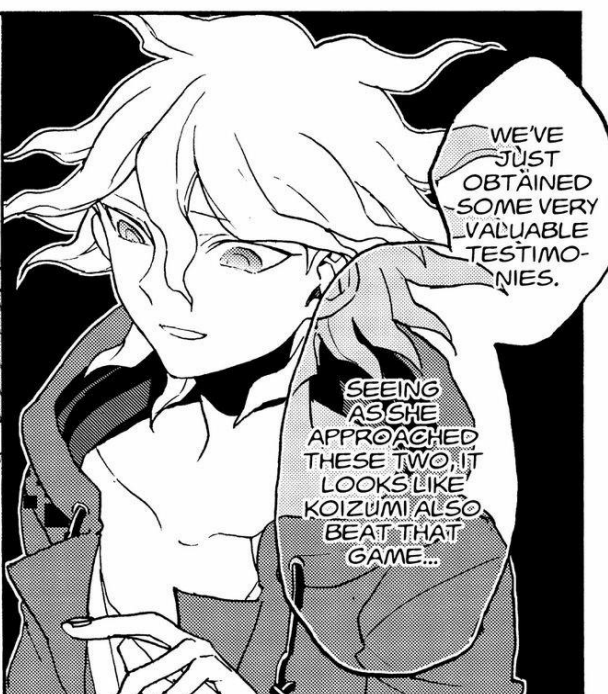
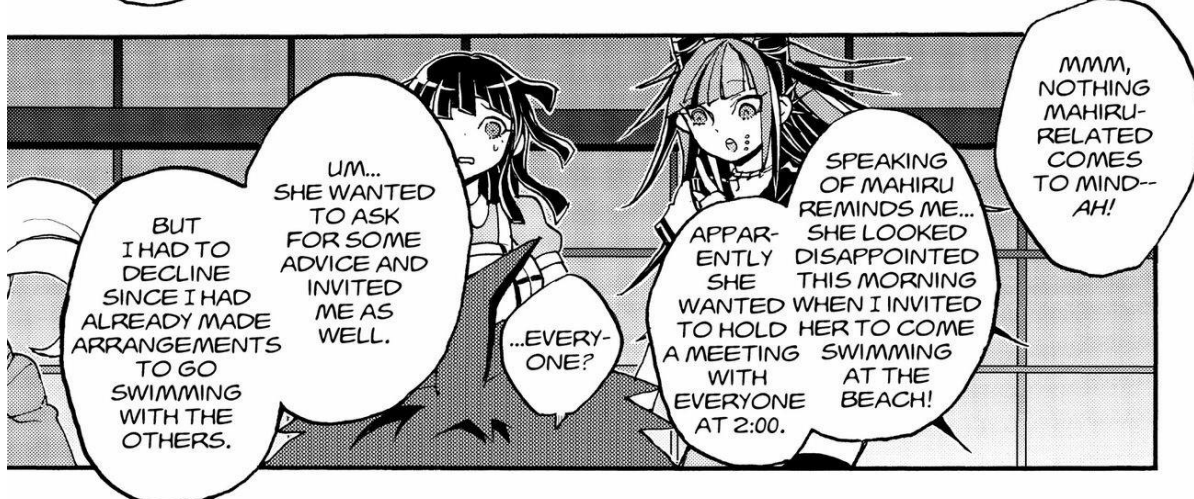


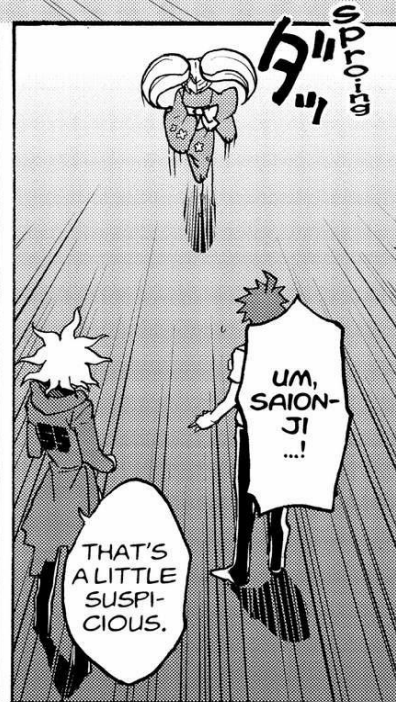


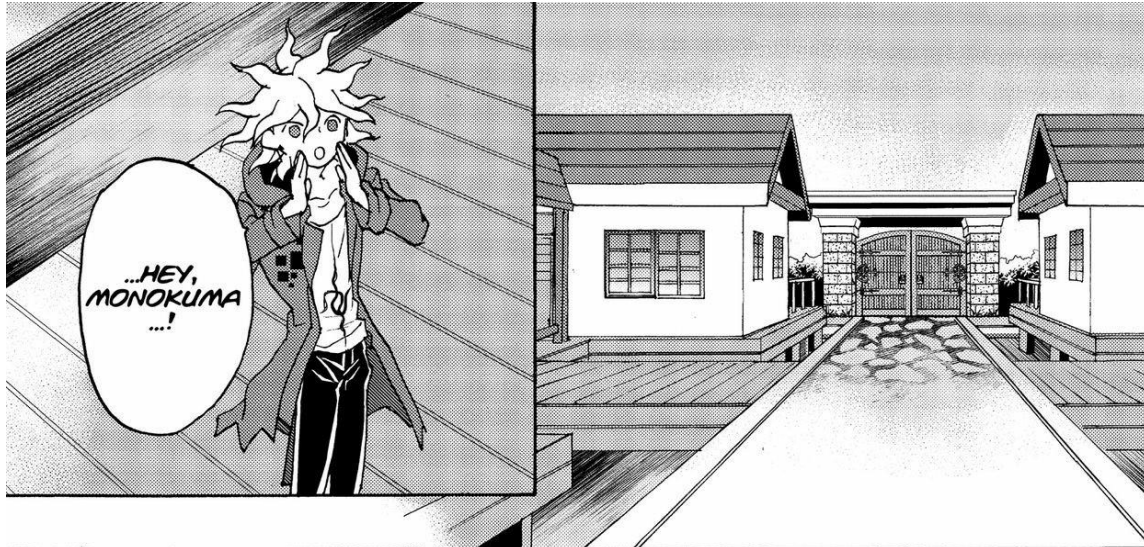
A-AS FOR MY RELATIONSHIP WITH
...I FIRST KOIZUMI...
MET HER BACK WHEN EVERYONE ASSEMBLED IN THAT CLASS-ROOM...



MMM...
WELL, I'LL HAVE YA KNOW IBUKI DIDN'T TOUCH THAT DUMB GAME!







...HEY,
MONOKUMA
...!



YES.
WELL, I JUST
NEED YOU TO
UNLOCK ALL
OF THE
COTTAGES
FOR THE
INVESTIGA-
TION...

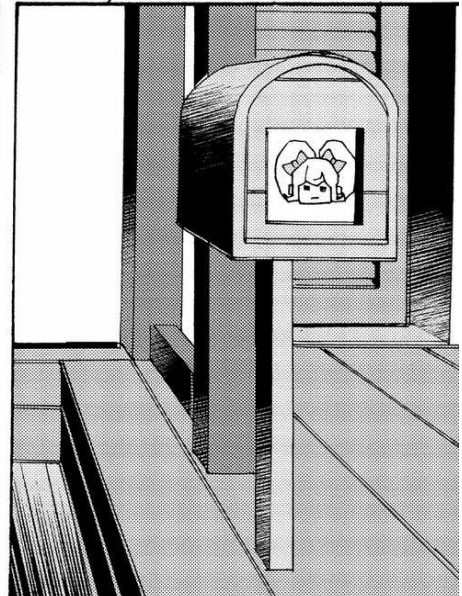
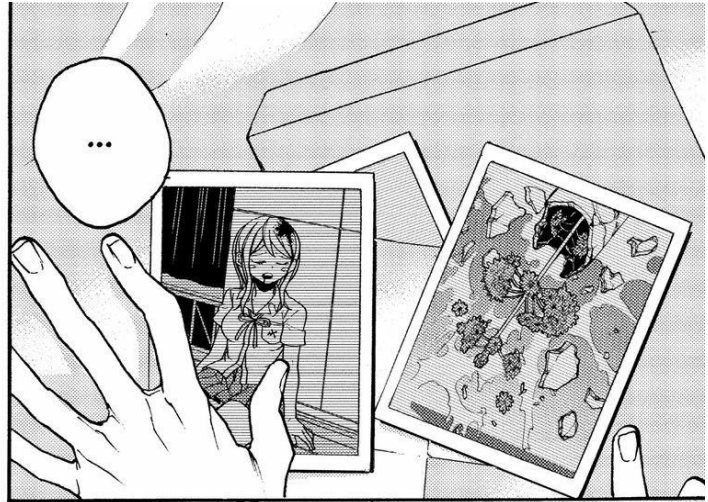
YOU'RE
GONNA
WEAR MY
FUR DOWN
TO THE
NAP...!!

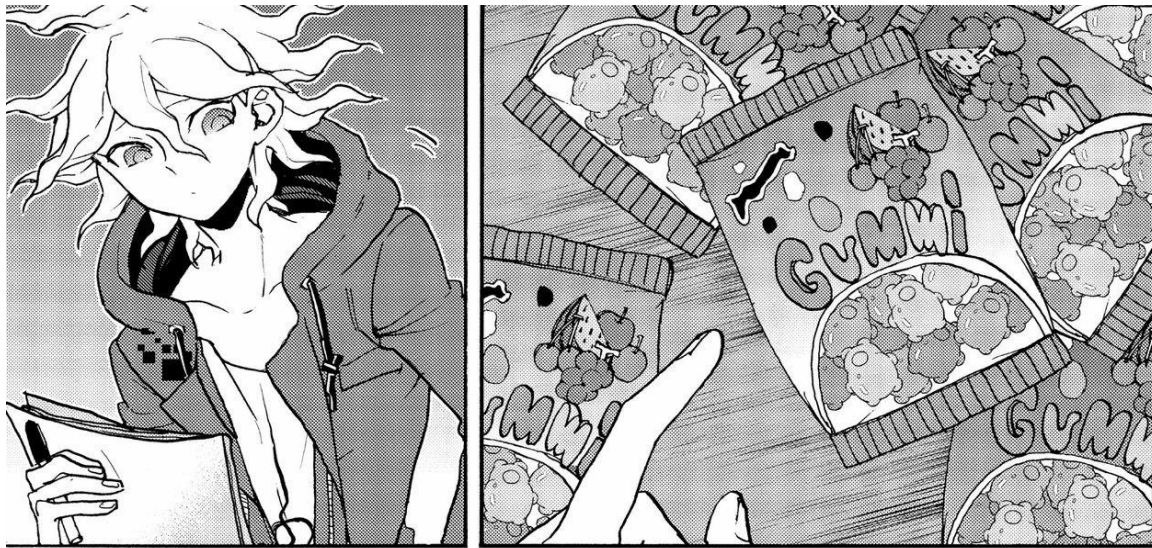
ALL
RIGHT,
ALL
RIGHT,
ALREADY
!!!



...I
WONDER
IF THIS
WAS THE
ENDING
PRIZE.

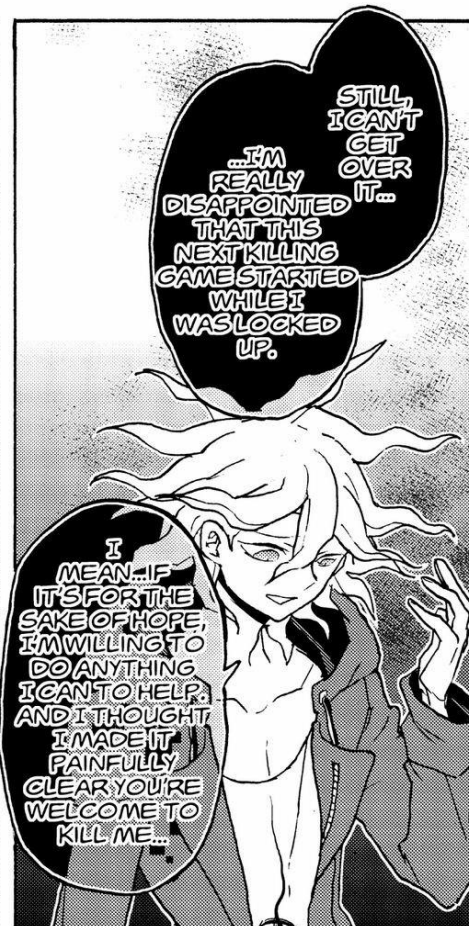


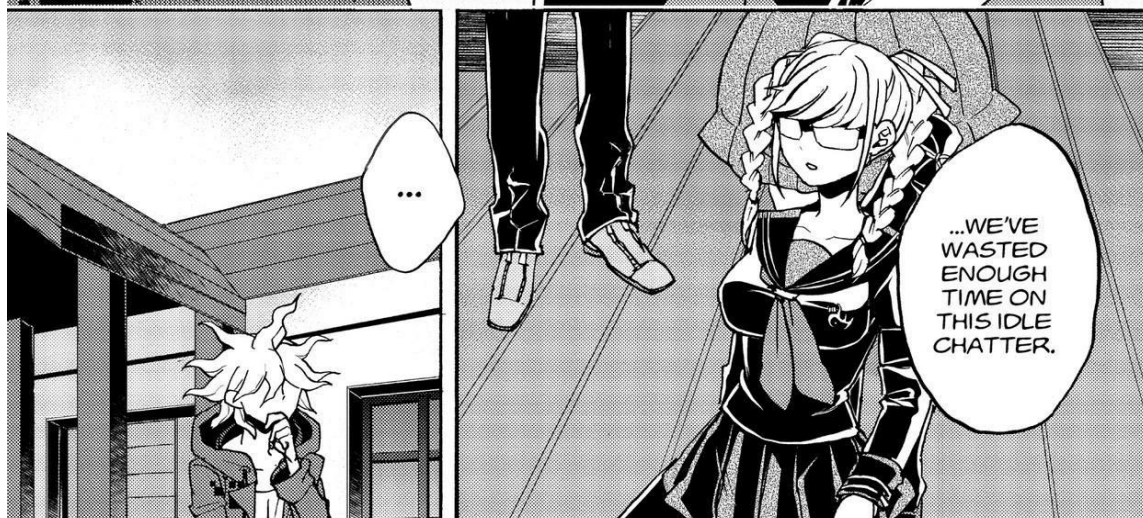


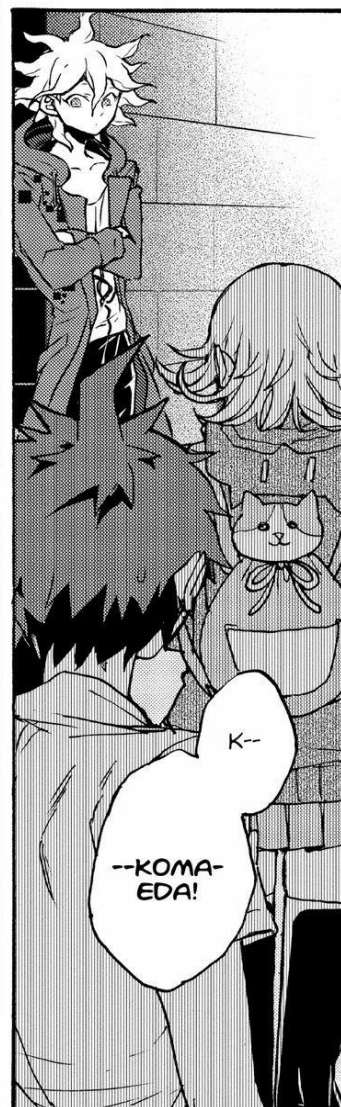
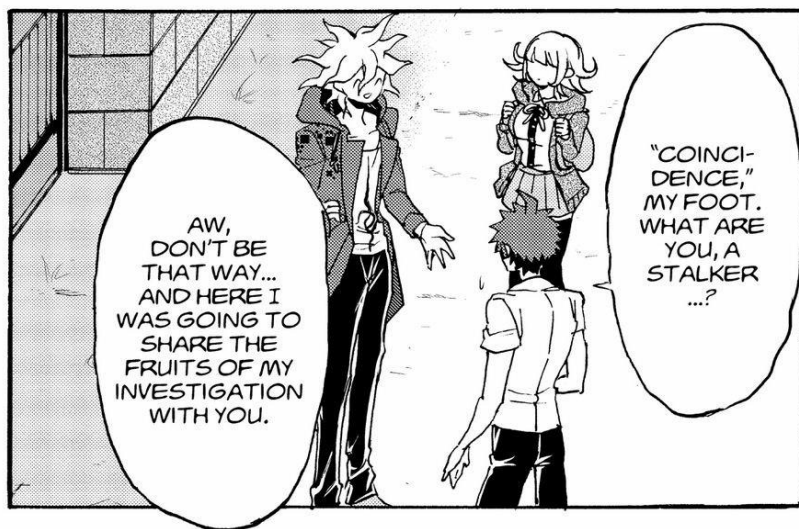


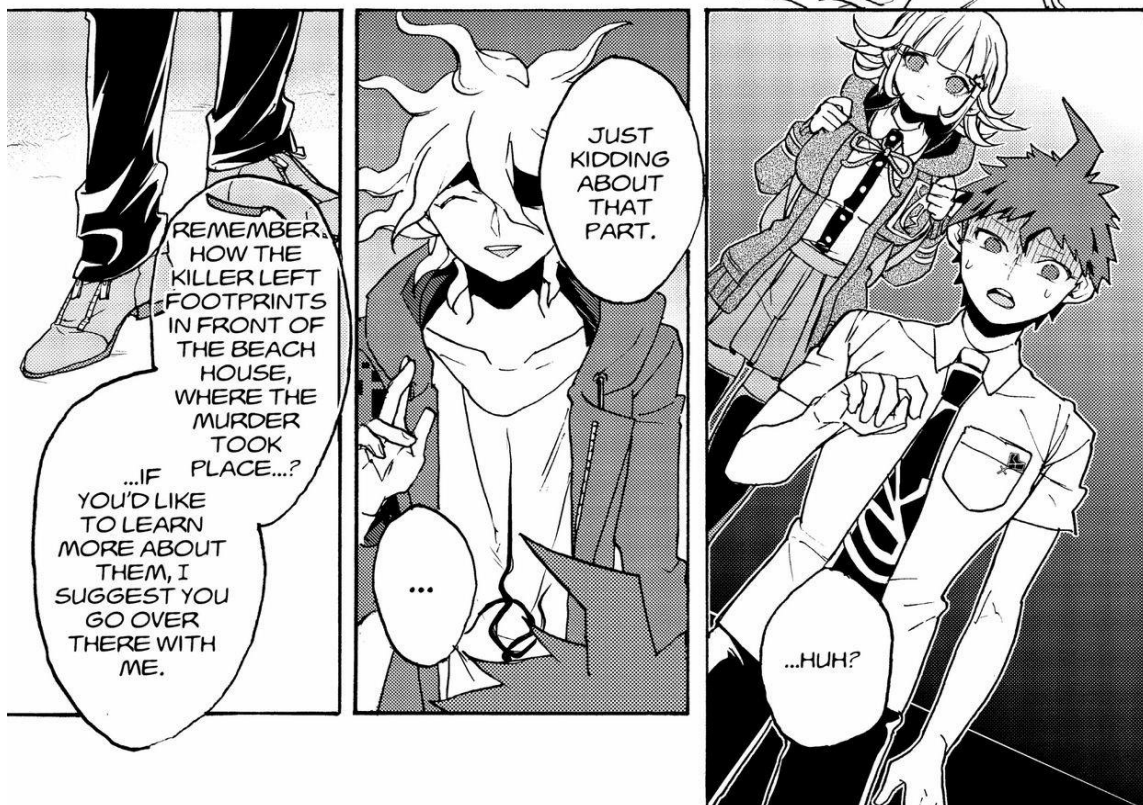


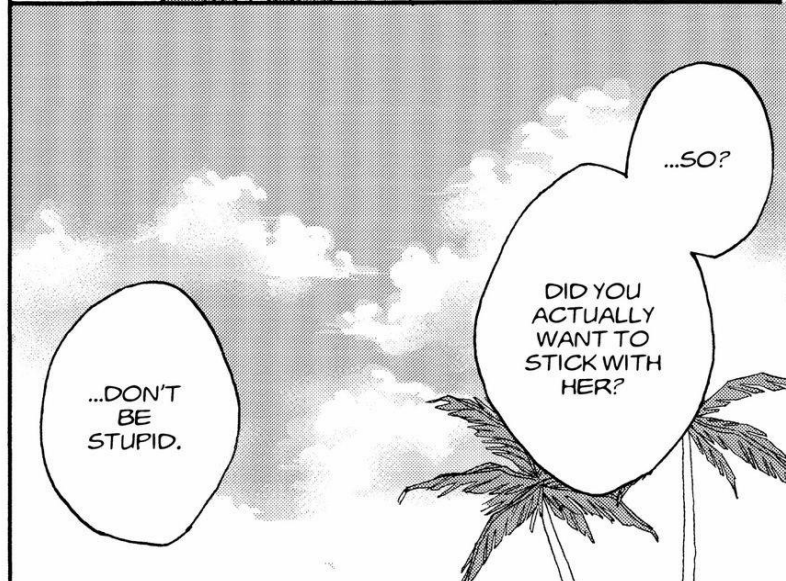
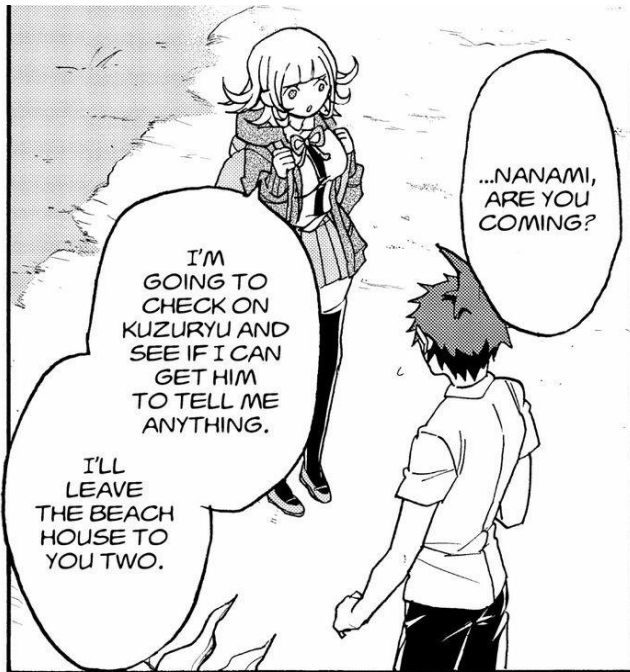
...WHY ARE YOU HERE?

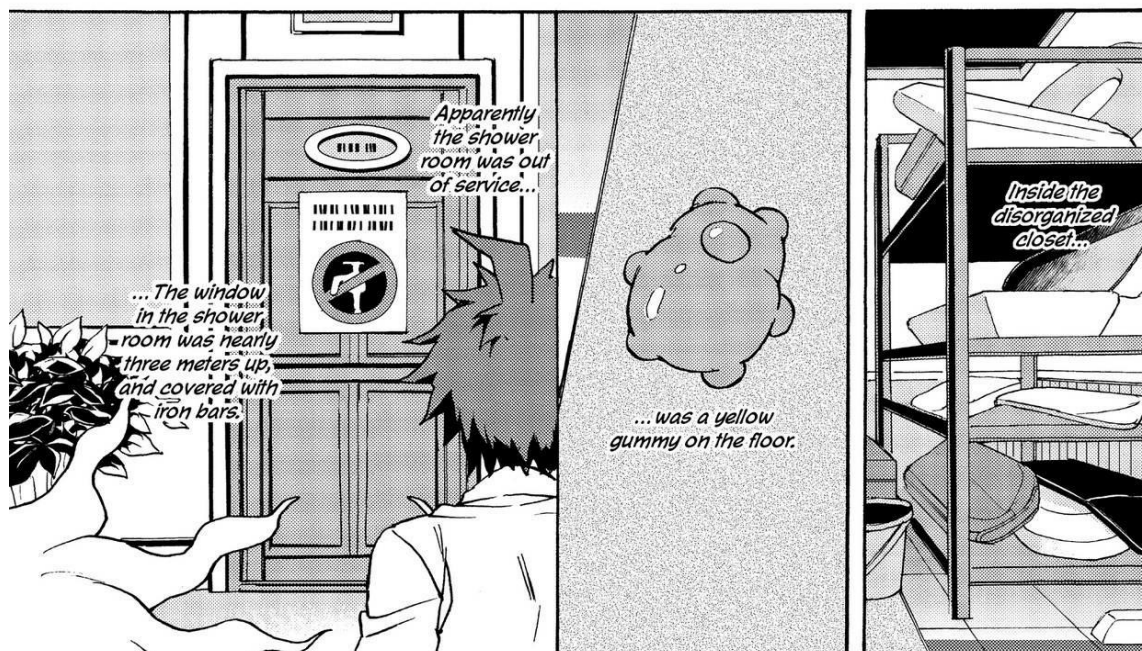
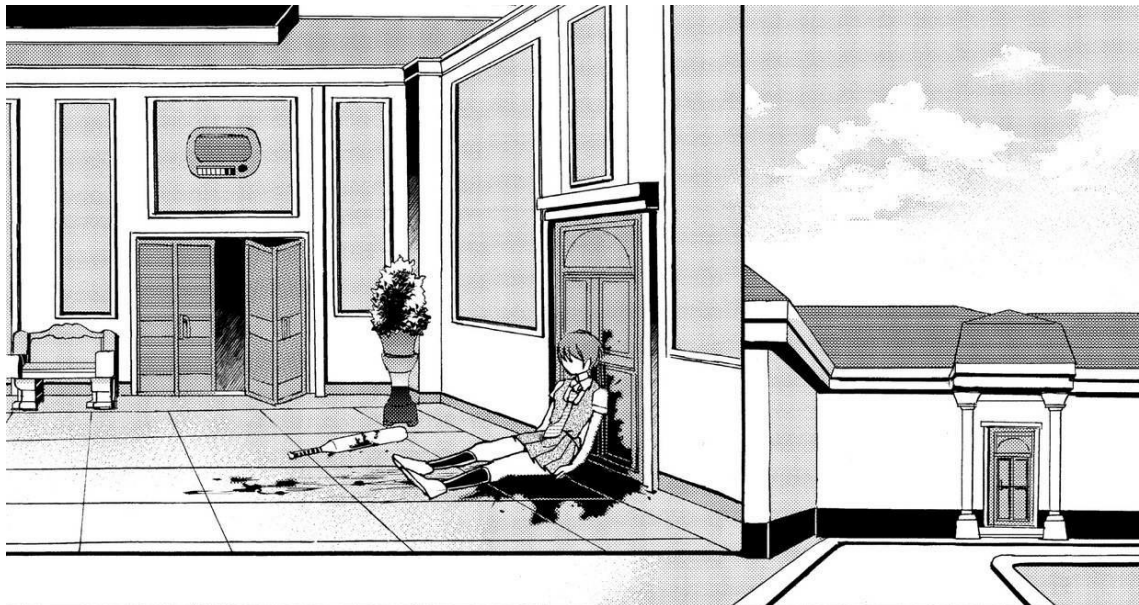


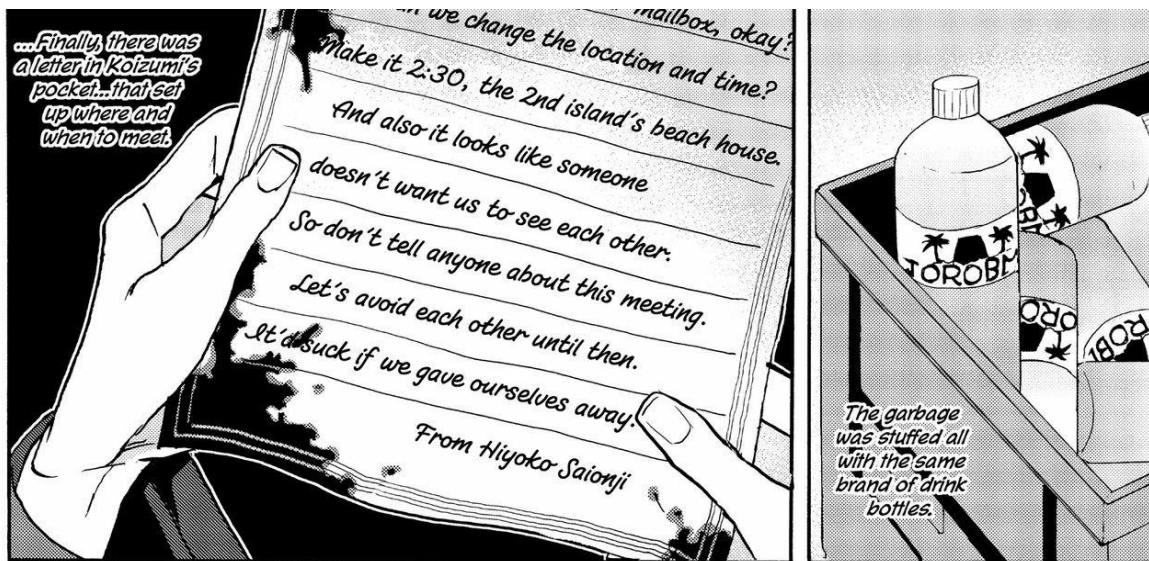






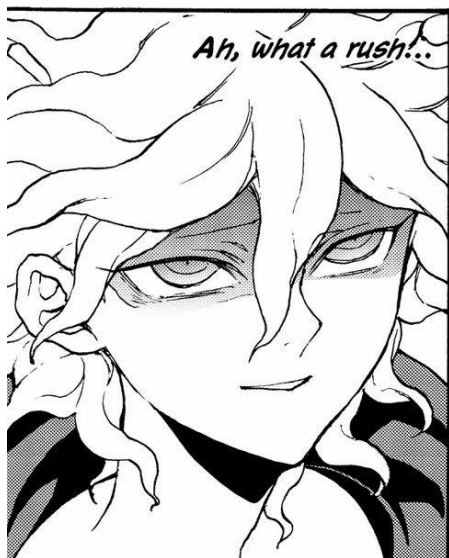




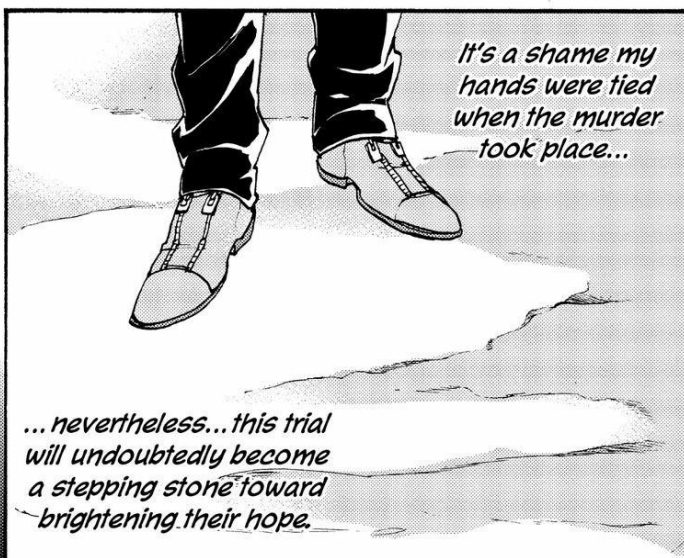




*It's time for the clash
between hope and despair
in the class trial.*

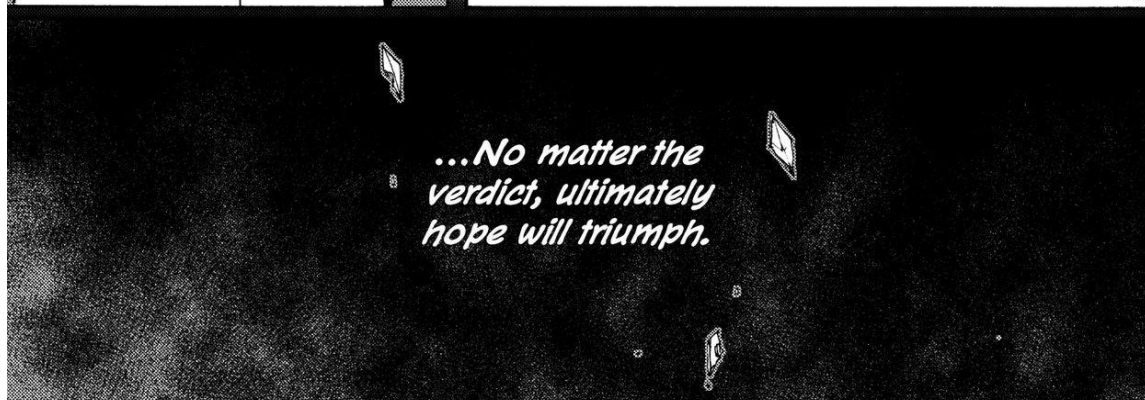


Ah, what a rush!...



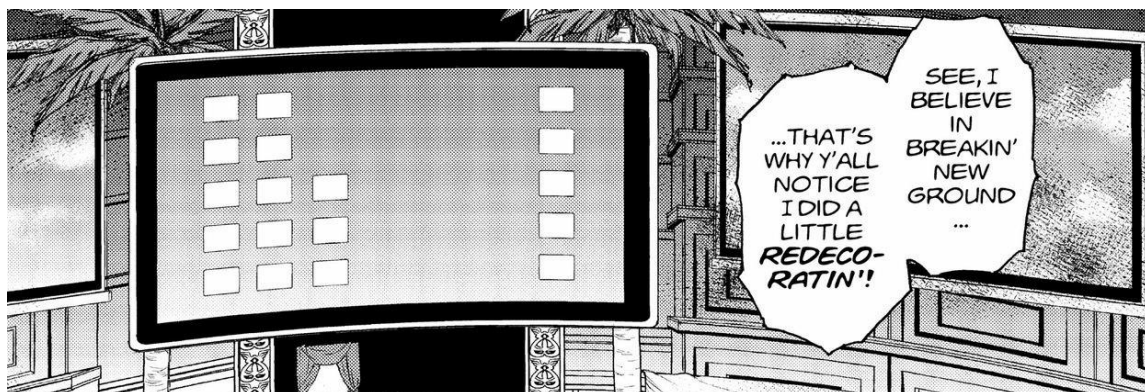
*It's a shame my
hands were tied
when the murder
took place...*

*... nevertheless... this trial
will undoubtedly become
a stepping stone toward
brightening their hope.*



*... No matter the
verdict, ultimately
hope will triumph.*





...THAT'S WHY Y'ALL NOTICE I DID A LITTLE REDECO-RATIN'!

SEE, I BELIEVE IN BREAKIN' NEW GROUND ...



...AND ENJOY THIS CLASS TRIAL TO YER HEARTS' CONTENT!

Y'ALL SHOULD "FUR"-GET 'BOUT LAME-BRAIN GOALS LIKE SURVIVAL...

FREE-DOM FROM GOALS! THAT RIGHT THERE IS MY GOAL!

MY GOAL ...?



WHAT IS YOUR REAL GOAL HERE...?

...IS NOW IN SESSION !!!

南 学 裁 判 廷

THE CLASS TRIAL...



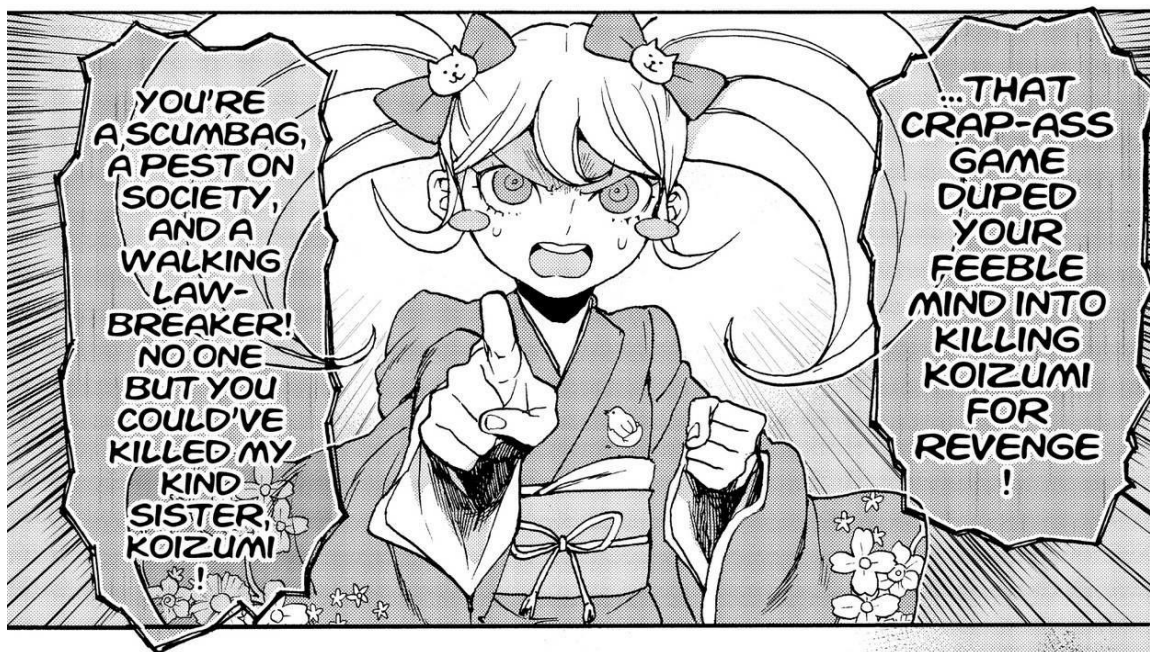
...BUT IT'S A NONFICTION GAME THAT WAS INSPIRED BY ACTUAL EVENTS.

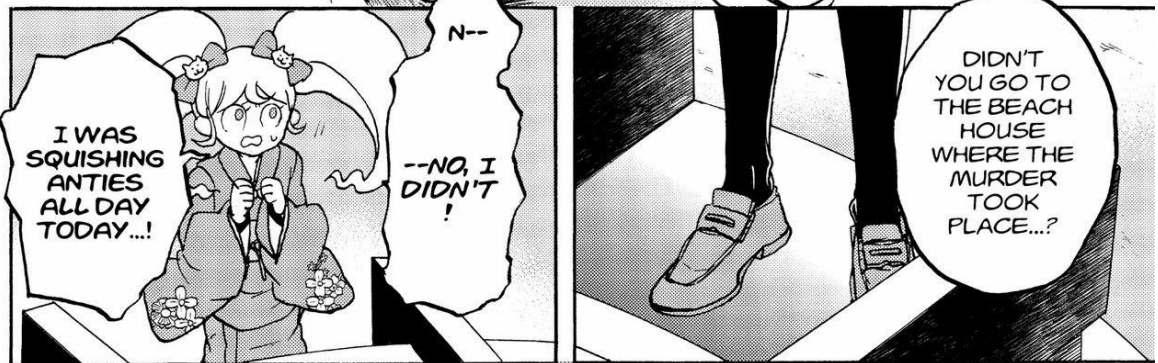
I BELIEVE THOSE WHO BEAT IT ALREADY KNOW ABOUT THIS...

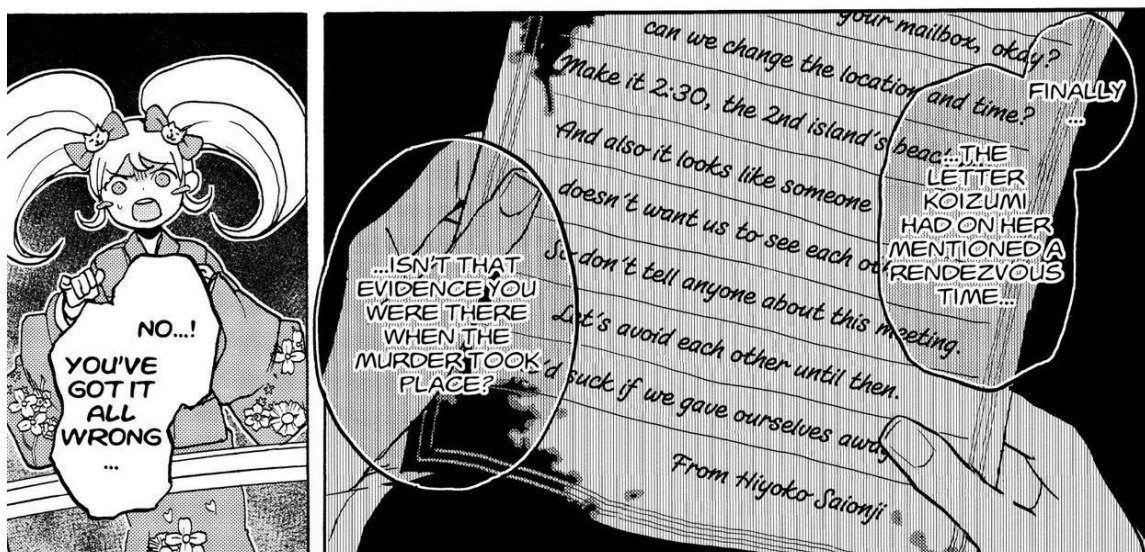


SAY, NOW...
...WHY DON'T WE START THE DEBATE WITH THE TWILIGHT SYNDROME MURDER CASE, SINCE IT SERVED AS THE MOTIVE THIS TIME...?

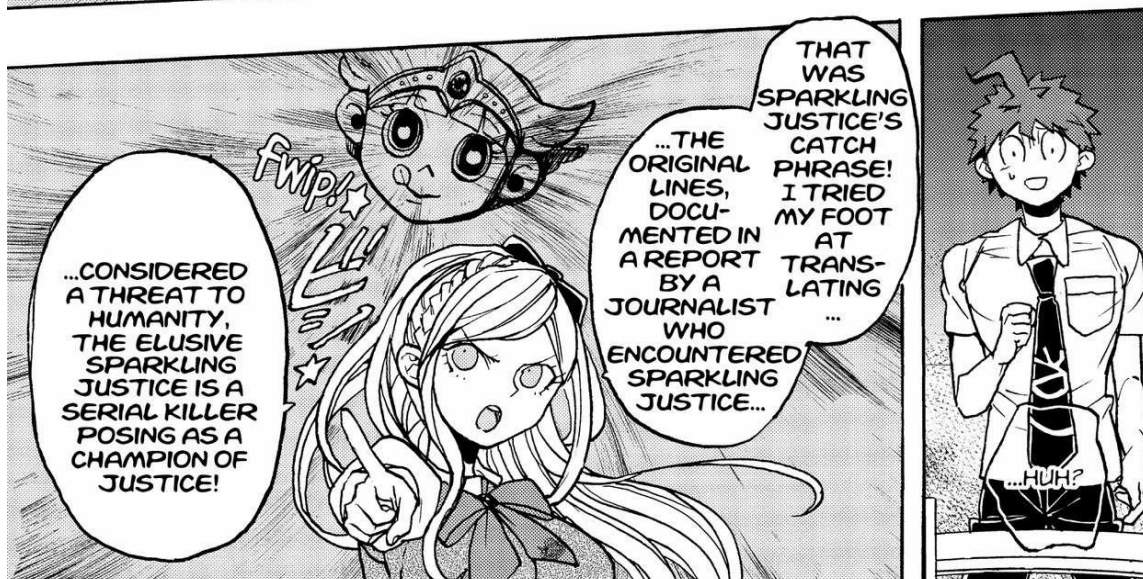
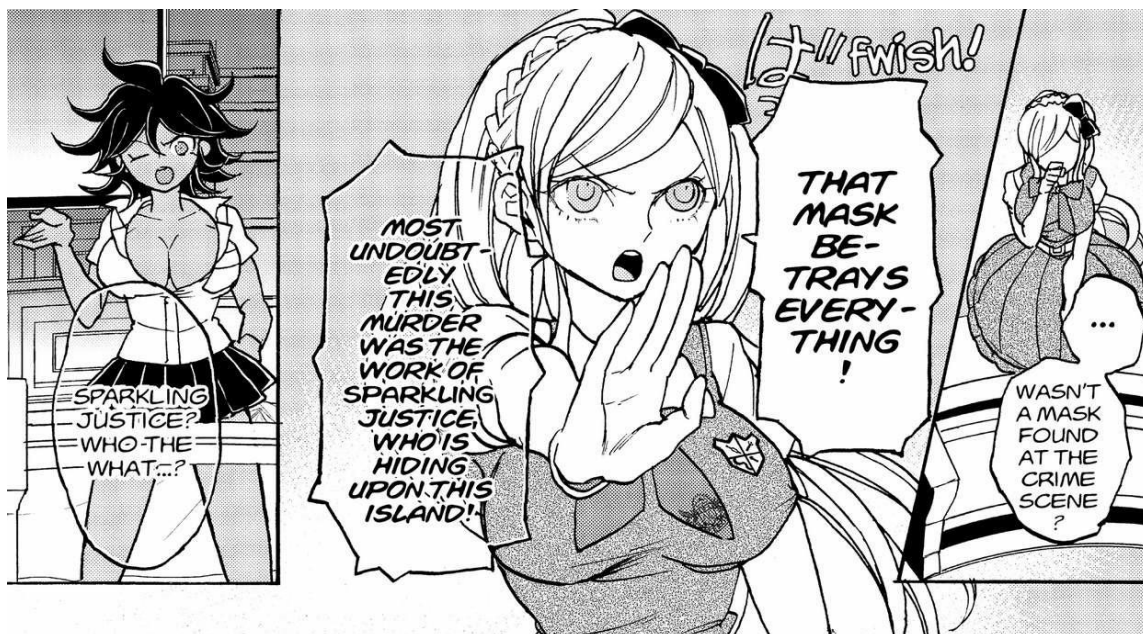




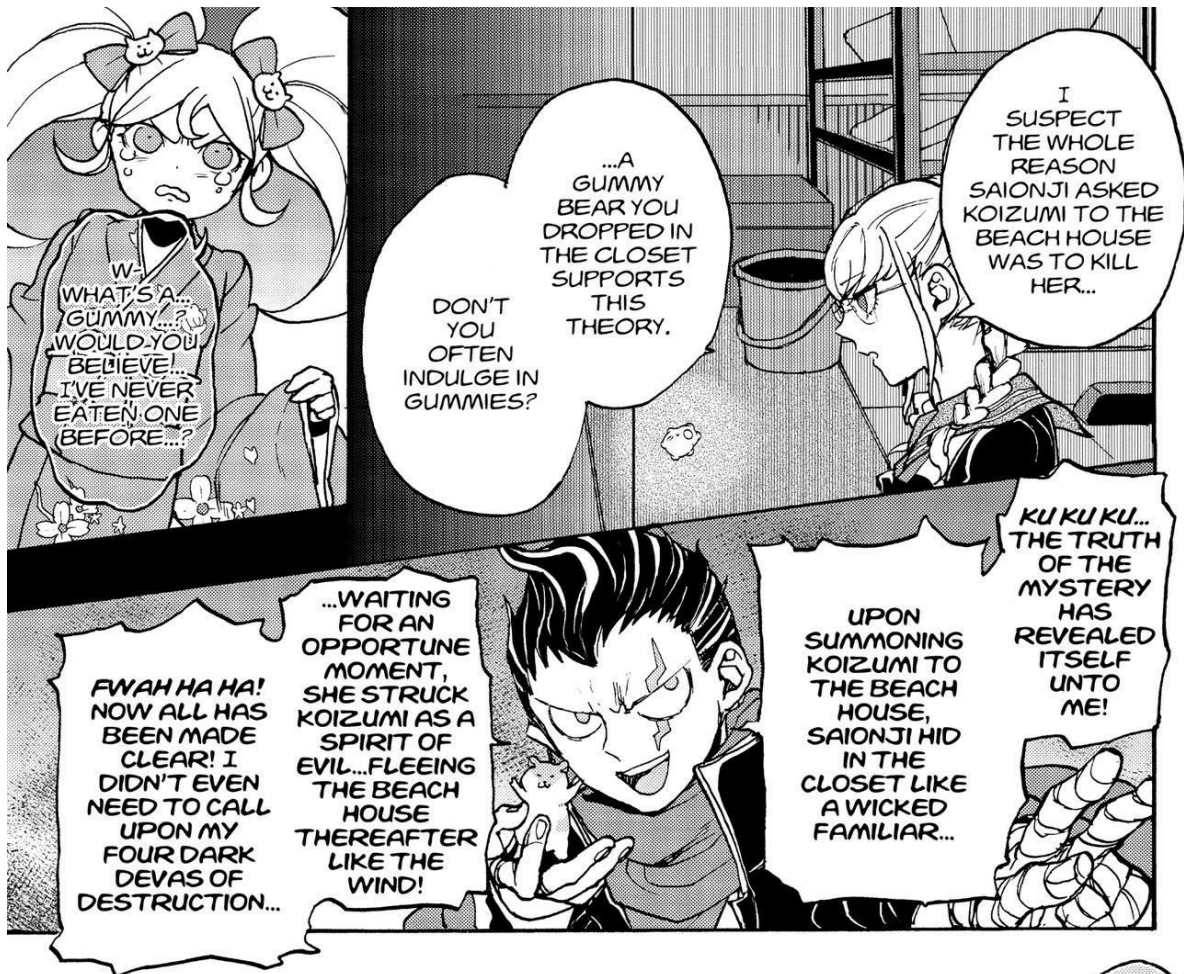














...THAT'S
WRONG
...!

EH...?!

通破!!



HUH?

HEY!
THEN IT
WASN'T
MINE! THE
ONES I
EAT DON'T
HAVE
YELLOW!

YELLOW
GUMMY
...?

SO
WOULDN'T
THAT MAKE
IT FROM A
DIFFERENT
BRAND THAN
THE ONE
SAIONJI
LIKES...?

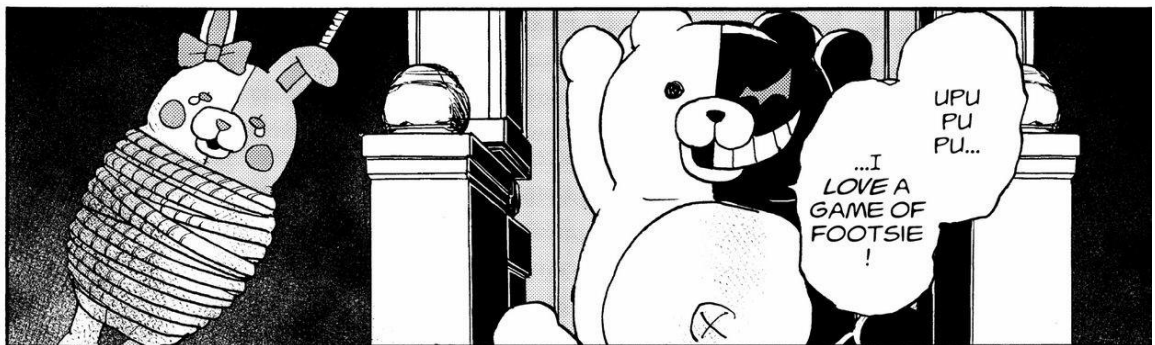
THE
GUMMY
AT THE
MURDER
SCENE WAS
YELLOW. IT
WAS LEMON
FLAVOR.



...THERE
WASN'T A
YELLOW GUMMY
TO BE FOUND
AMONG THE
BAGS UPON
BAGS SHE KEPT
STASHED IN HER
COTTAGE.

IT'S
TRUE...







Ep.13





'CEPT DA
BEACH
HOUSE
HAS A
SHOWER...

...ALL
SHE HAD
TO DO WAS
GO WASH IT
OFF!

BUT IF
SAIONJI
MOVED HER
BODY...SHE
SHOULD HAVE
BEEN
COVERED IN
BLOOD!

EUT
斬

NO, SHE
COULDN'T
HAVE
WASHED
IT OFF
THAT
WAY...

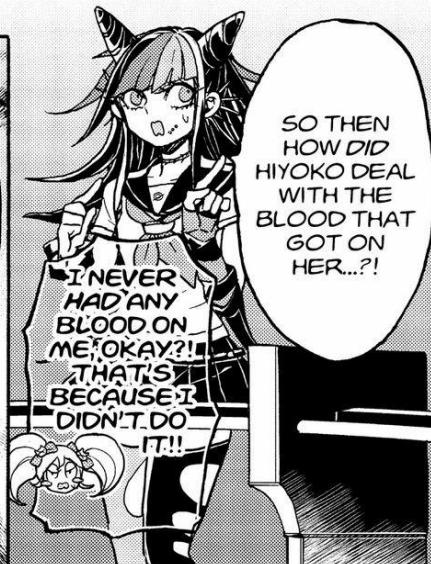
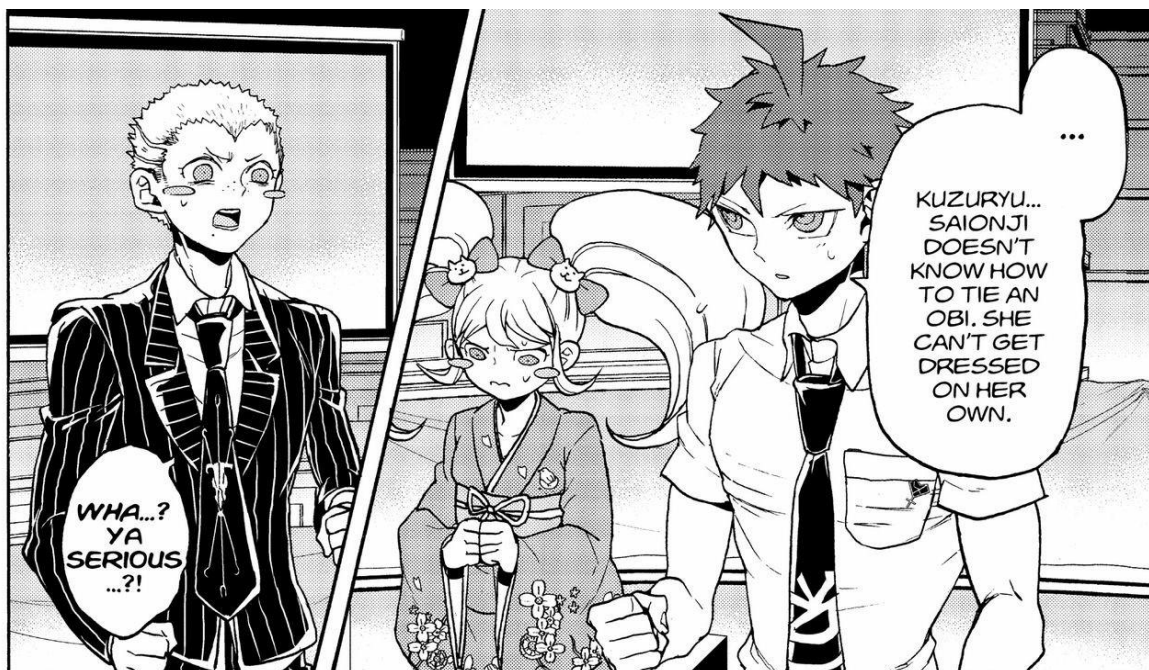
...THE
SHOWERHEAD
IN THE BEACH
HOUSE IS
BROKEN...
IT'S UNDER
MAINTENANCE
...!

TCH...

ARE...
...YOU
SUGGESTING
I'D DO
SOMETHING
THAT
KINKY...?!

...MAYBE
DA CHICK
NEVER
WASHED DA
STAINS OFF!
HOW'S DIS
SCENARIO
FOR YA...

...SHE
STRIPS DOWN
FIRST, MOVES
DA STIFF, AN'
DEN PUTS DA
KIMONO BACK
ON OVER
HER BLOODY
BODY!





UMM...
YEAH, I
GUESS IT
WOULDN'T
KILL ME...

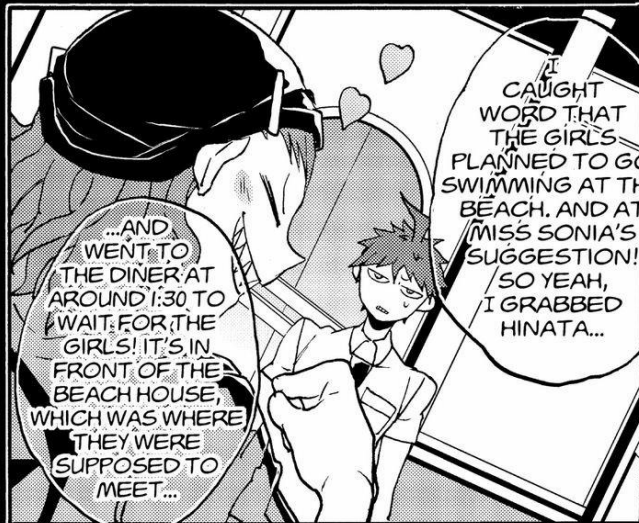


MAYBE
YOU COULD
TELL US ABOUT
THAT LITTLE
ADVENTURE IN
MORE DETAIL,
SODA.

OH,
YES. WEREN'T
YOU GUYS
SUPPOSED TO
GO SWIMMING
AT THE
BEACH...?

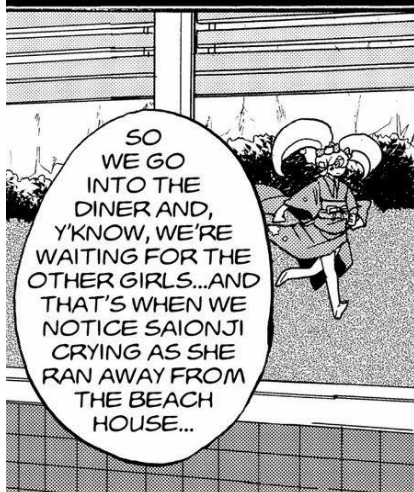


...FIRST
KUZURYU
WALKED
BY...



...AND
WENT TO
THE DINER AT
AROUND 1:30 TO
WAIT FOR THE
GIRLS! IT'S IN
FRONT OF THE
BEACH HOUSE,
WHICH WAS WHERE
THEY WERE
SUPPOSED TO
MEET...

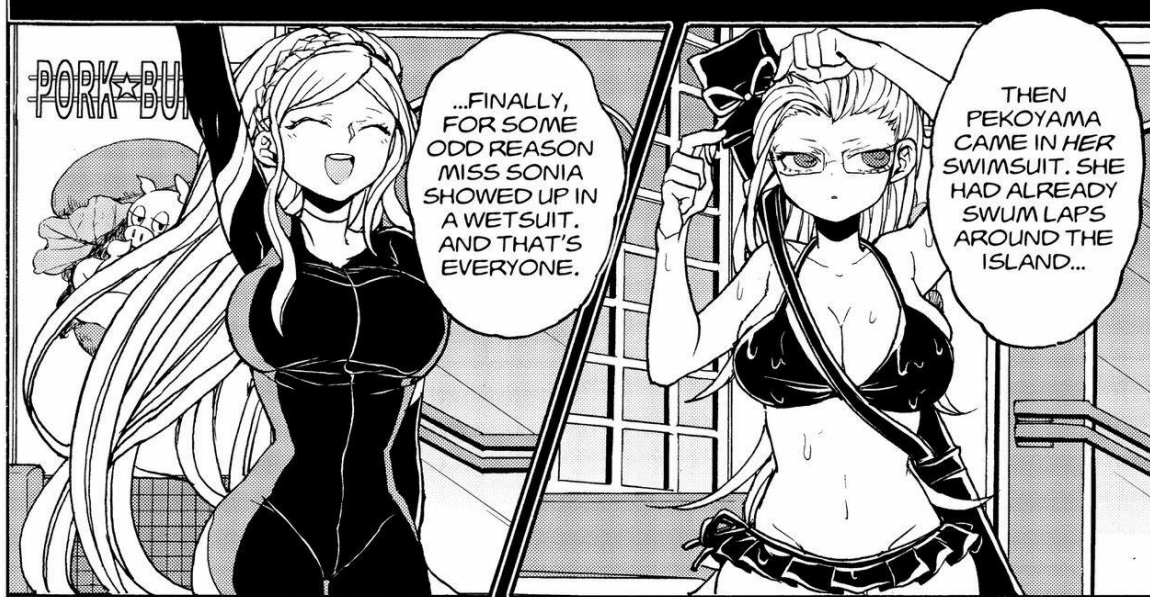
I
CAUGHT
WORD THAT
THE GIRLS
PLANNED TO GO
SWIMMING AT THE
BEACH. AND AT
MISS SONIA'S
SUGGESTION!
SO YEAH,
I GRABBED
HINATA...



SO
WE GO
INTO THE
DINER AND,
Y'KNOW, WE'RE
WAITING FOR THE
OTHER GIRLS...AND
THAT'S WHEN WE
NOTICE SAIONJI
CRYING AS SHE
RAN AWAY FROM
THE BEACH
HOUSE...

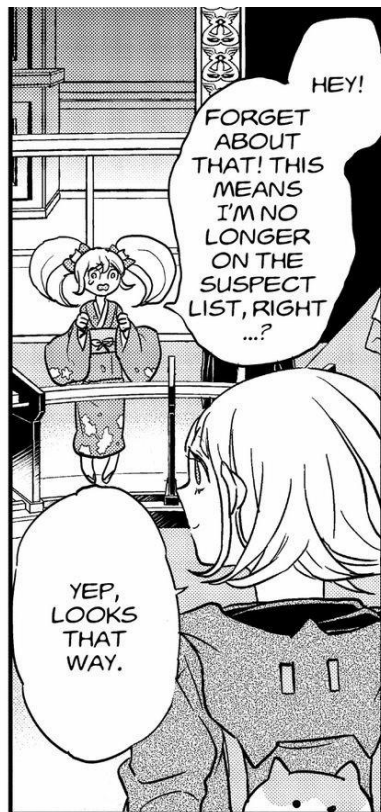


...THEN
MODA
AND
TSUMIKI
BOTH
CLAIMED
UP.
THEIR
SWIMSUITS
WERE ON
UNDER THEIR
CLOTHES.





SAIONJI...
THERE'S
NOTHING TO
WORRY
ABOUT ANY
MORE,
OKAY...?



HEY!
FORGET
ABOUT
THAT! THIS
MEANS
I'M NO
LONGER
ON THE
SUSPECT
LIST, RIGHT
...?



S...
SORRY
I'M PIG
BARF...!!

STUFF
IT, PIG
BARF!
GET A
NASTY
HANGNAIL
AND
DIE!!!



YEP,
LOOKS
THAT
WAY.



EVEN
IF YOU AREN'T
THE CULPRIT...
YOU WERE
DEFINITELY
AT THE BEACH
HOUSE.
WOULD
YOU BE
SO KIND
AS TO TELL
US WHAT
TRANSPIRED
...?

...LISTEN,
SAIONJI.
NOW THAT
YOU'RE FREE OF
SUSPICION, ISN'T
IT ABOUT TIME
YOU FINALLY
CAME CLEAN...
FIGURATIVELY, I
MEAN...?

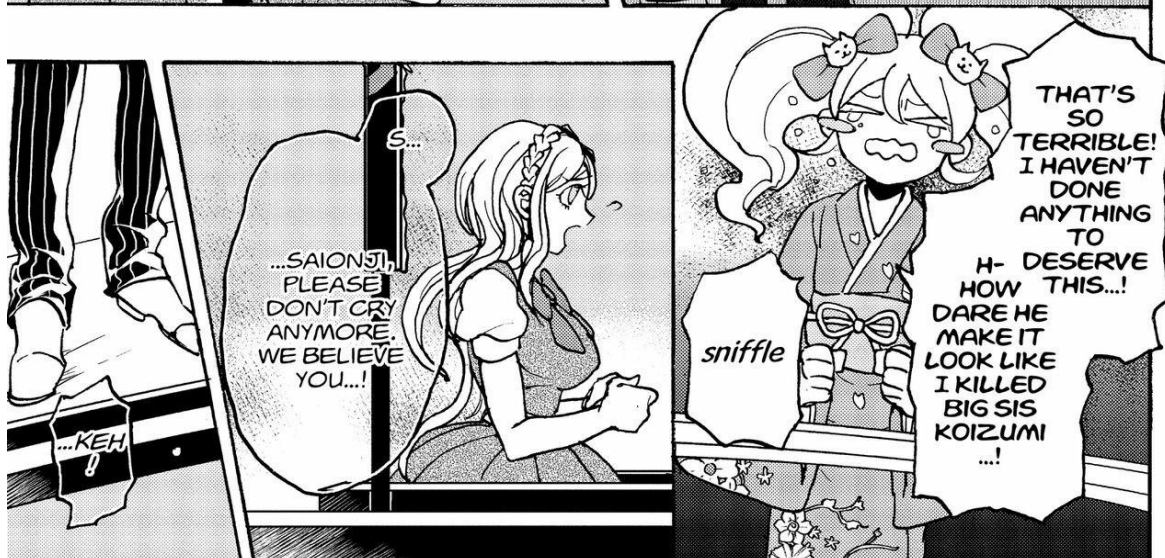
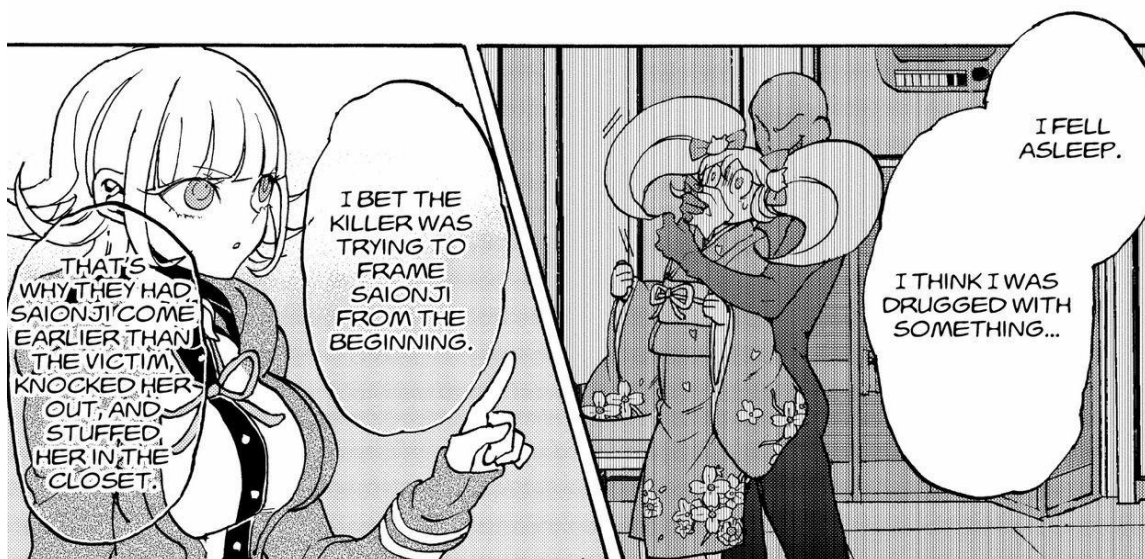


F-
FINE...! I'LL
TELL YOU
ALREADY...



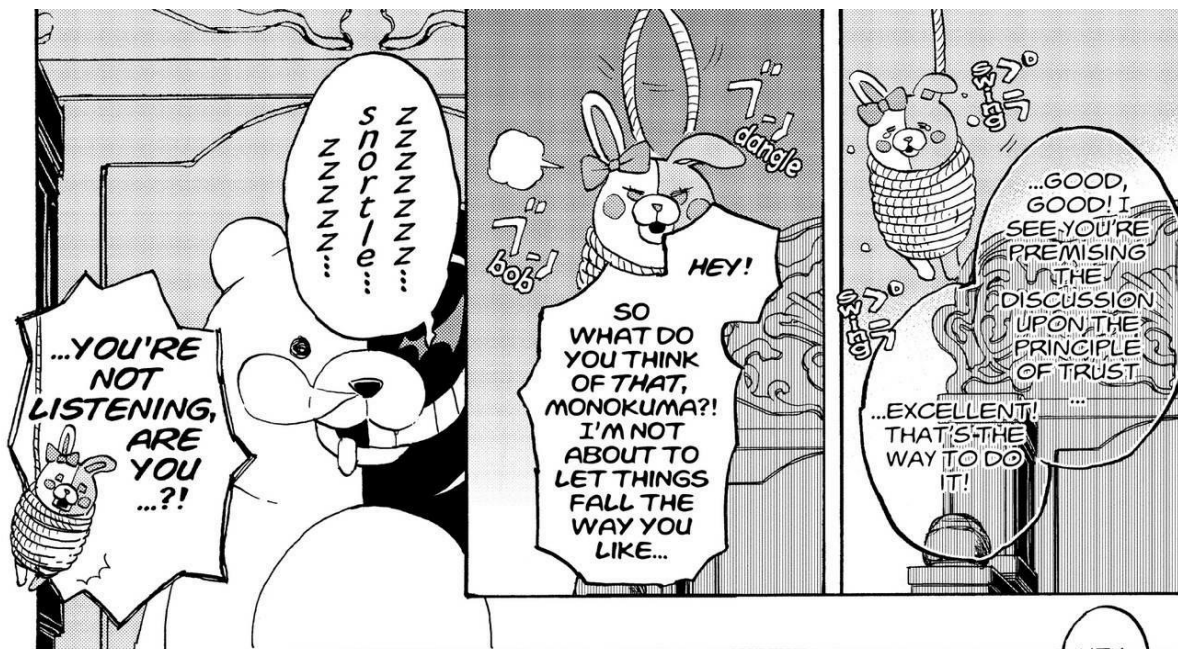
I'M ASKING
AS WELL... IT
MIGHT GIVE
US SOME
CLUE OR
'NOTHER.





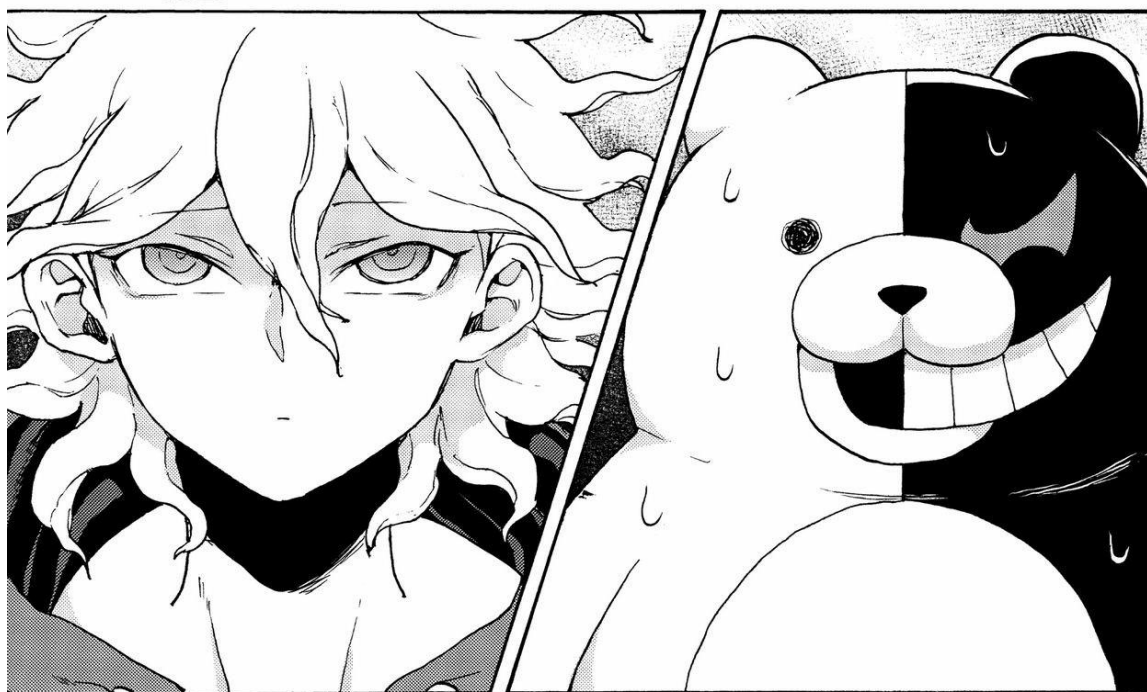
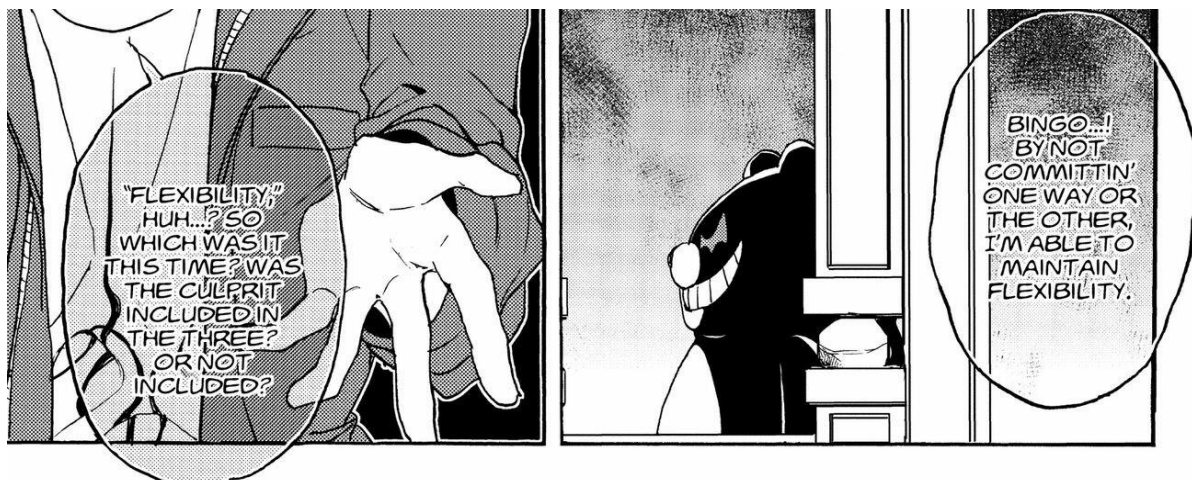


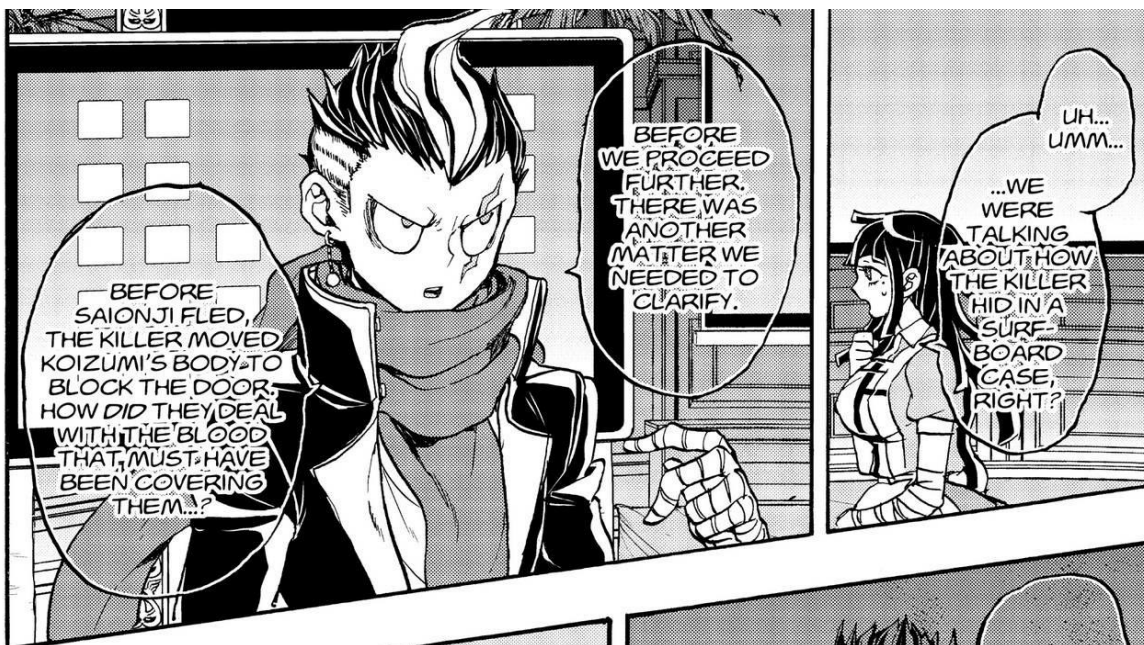














THE
CULPRIT
COULDN'T
BE MORE
SUSPICIOUS
THAN TO USE
SUCH A
METHOD--

IF
THE KILLER
TRIED TO WASH
THE BLOOD OFF
WITH THOSE...
IT'D LEAVE THEIR
BODY STICKY AND
DIRTY, PLUS IT'D
TAKE TIME FOR
THE SMELL TO
DISSIPATE.

THERE
WASN'T A
SINGLE BOTTLE
OF WATER
STOCKED IN THE
REFRIGERATOR
AT THE BEACH
HOUSE. IT ONLY
HAD COLORED
AND FLAVORED
DRINKS.

...BUT
THERE
WAS
WATER
IN THAT
FRIDGE...!

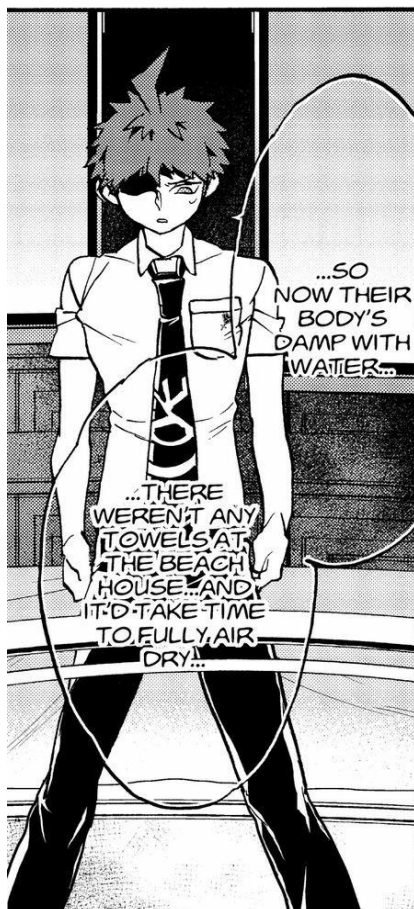
CUT!

CONSIDERING
THERE WERE ALL
THOSE EMPTY
BOTTLES WITH
THE SAME LABEL
IN THE
TRASH...ISN'T IT
SAFE TO SAY THEY
WERE THE WATER
BOTTLES...?

THE
KILLER USED
ALL THOSE
BOTTLES
TO RINSE
THE BLOOD
OFF!

AREN'T
YOU
REFERRING
TO "AFTER
THE MURDER"?
BUT IT WASN'T
LIKE THAT
BEFORE SHE
WAS KILLED...IT
WAS FULLY
STOCKED
WITH WATER
THEN.

--DON'T
MAKE ME
REPEAT
MYSELF!
IT DIDN'T
HAVE SO
MUCH AS A
SINGLE--!



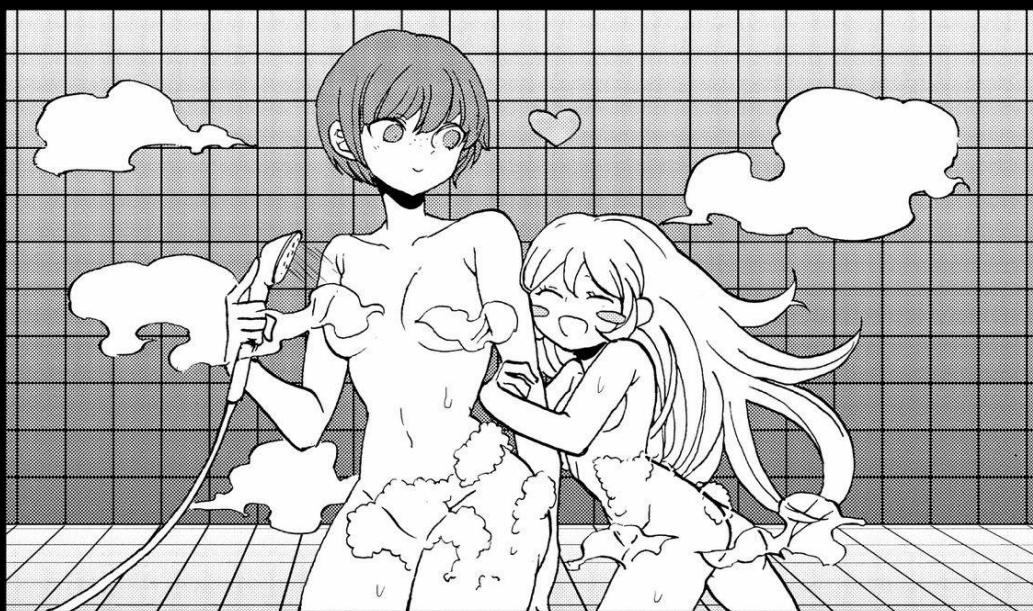
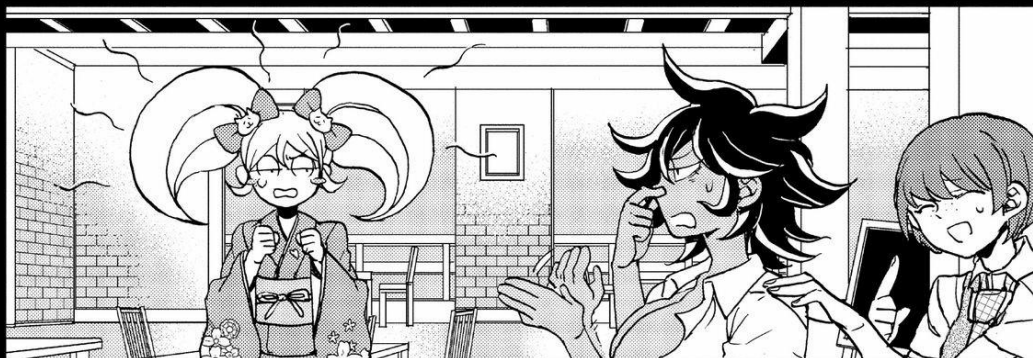


ILLUSTRATION

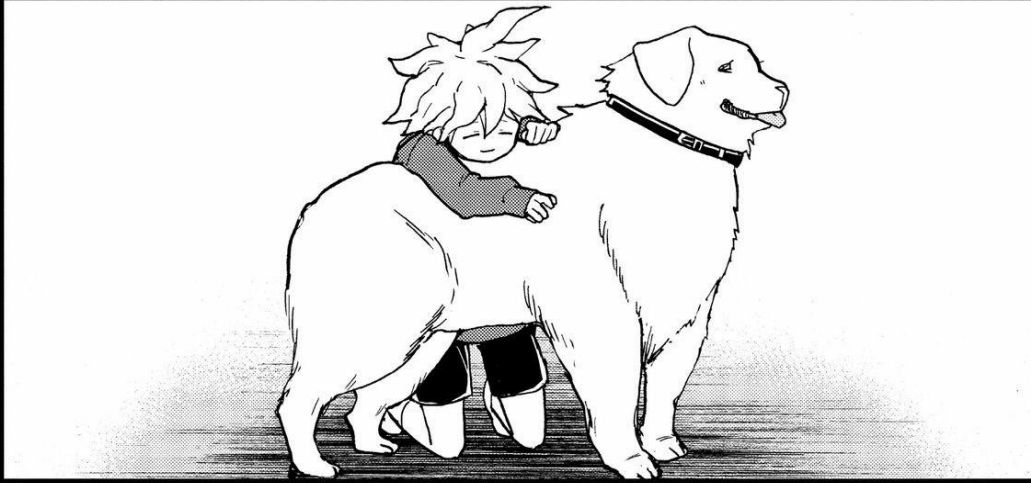








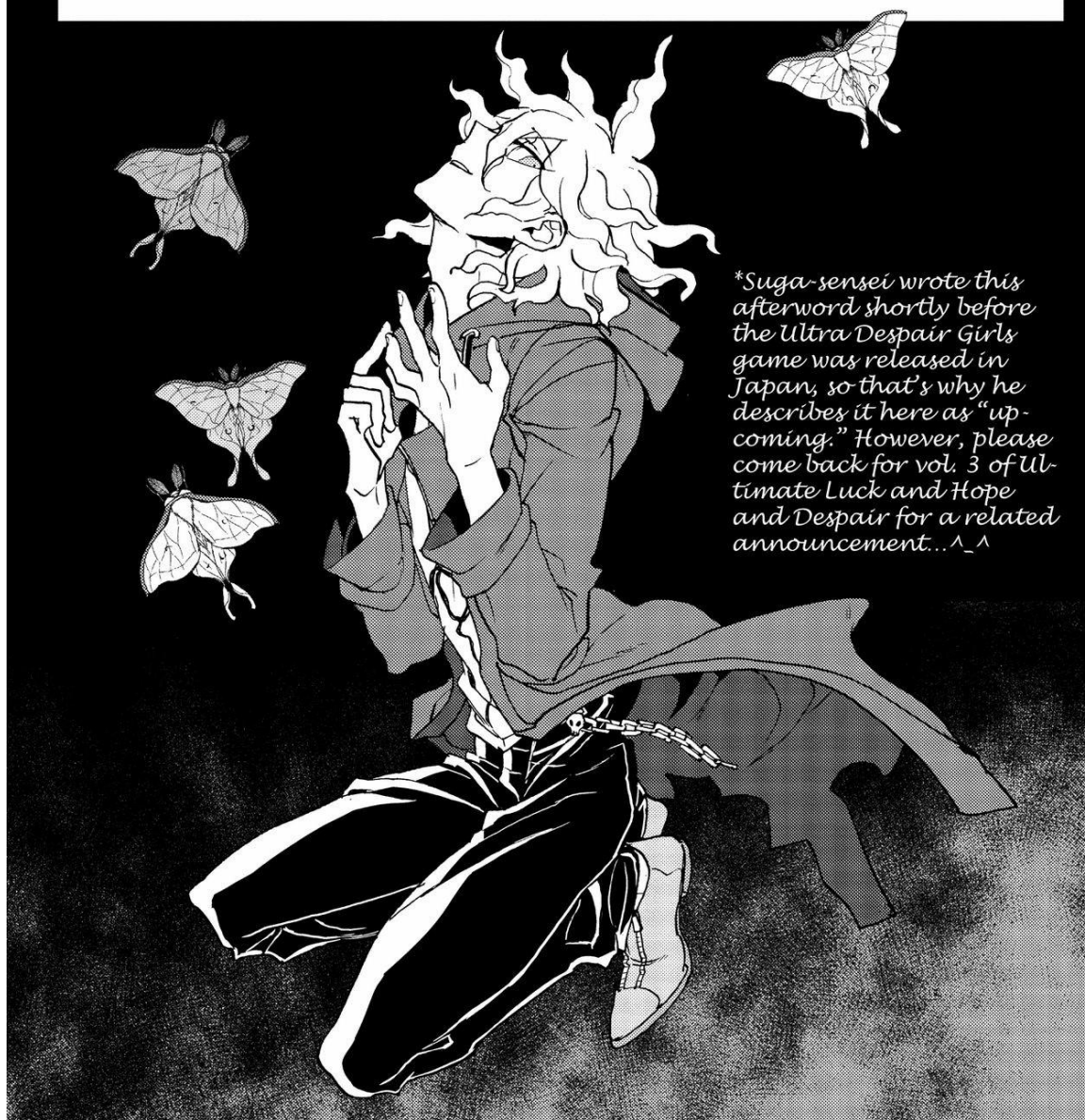




Hello, I'm Kyouzuke Suga. Thanks once again for getting this edition of Danganronpa 2: Ultimate Luck and Hope and Despair, Volume 2!

Thanks to everyone at Spike Chunsoft, my editor, everyone involved with the book, and above all, the fans of the original game who are reading this manga rendition, I was able to release Volume 2 without a hitch...! I am bursting with gratitude! On another note, the editor "W," whom I mentioned in the previous volume, resigned around August of 2013. I am currently with the editor who replaced him. I have the utmost gratitude for both people...!

As a major Danganronpa fan, I am really, really excited to see where the series is headed next with the upcoming Ultra Despair Girls release...! While I may not be worthy, I shall continue to pour love into drawing this manga, so please stick with me! I hope to see you again in the next volume!*



**Suga-sensei wrote this afterword shortly before the Ultra Despair Girls game was released in Japan, so that's why he describes it here as "upcoming." However, please come back for vol. 3 of Ultimate Luck and Hope and Despair for a related announcement...^_^*

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ultimate digital art technician
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DANGANRONPA 2: ULTIMATE LUCK AND HOPE AND DESPAIR VOLUME 2

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DESPAIR MAIL

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AHEM! The first thing to do is to say we're sorry for vol. 1 being late, although I like to think that, just like Kei and Yuri, it wasn't our fault. Nevertheless, I would like to apologize sincerely the way the politicians do in Japan, if you've ever seen it on NHK-TV. You know, that bow made while sitting down at a news conference, or, for especially grave situations, standing up from your chair at a news conference and then bowing.

But you and I know there's only one proper way to make atonement . . . U PU PUU . . . that's with more DESPAIR MAIL, the place for Ultimate Danganronpa Fans! If you'd like to share your thoughts or comments on Danganronpa . . . pictures of your Danganronpa cosplay . . . or your Danganronpa fan art—this is the place for you! Send it to the address/e-mail at the top of the page, and remember to use high resolution (300 dpi or better) for your photos or images, so it'll look good in print! We're okay with you sending us images even if they happen to be fairly large, say, 3 or 4 MB.

In fact, we're still catching up with all the contributions readers sent in for our first Danganronpa manga series (Danganronpa: The Animation), so thank you, everyone, for your patience. Do you remember how I mentioned last time that volume 1 of our Danganronpa: The Animation manga had just gone into its fifth printing? Well, since then, both volume 2 and volume 4 have gone into a fourth printing . . . meaning that new readers are continuing to get into the manga! If you're one of those new readers, thank you especially, and we'll hope to see your contributions in DESPAIR MAIL as well.

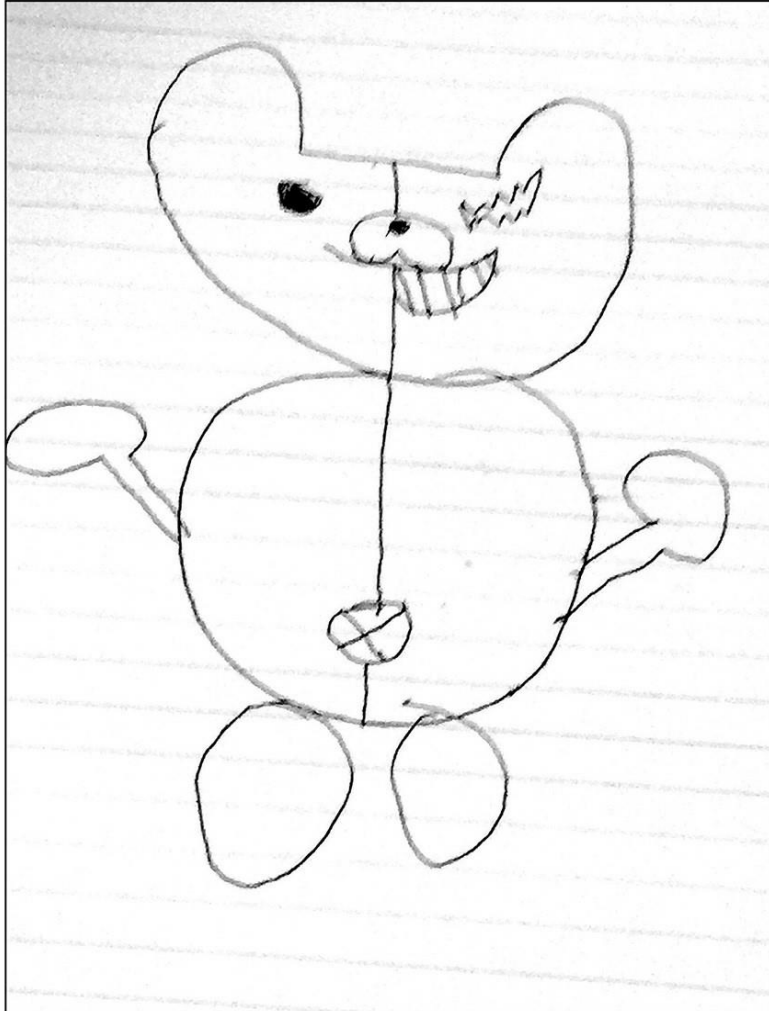
It seems that people would like even more Danganronpa . . . so we would like you reading this to be the first to know that we're going to release another Danganronpa manga series after Ultimate Luck and Hope and Despair concludes in the next volume. Actually, maybe it won't just be another series . . . maybe it'll be two other manga series . . . ?

I'm okay with telling you this stuff, because if there's one thing Danganronpa is all about, it's being able to keep a secret. And then, of course, spilling that secret under ruthless cross-examination at the class trial, followed by brutal and ironic punishment. Which brings us, of course, to . . .





... the bear who brings the scare, Monokuma. This photo is from Tyler Burkett, who says: "My mother has created the Monocup. It was made by taking a YETI cup, spray paint, and village." Village? I'm guessing an autocorrect with no sense of craft has cruelly struck down "decoupage." Or could it be that it "takes a village" ... ?



And then there's this full-body Monokuma from reader Carlos Alvarez Cabera, which remains intimidating even in its minimalism. Si te dan papel rayado, escribe de través.



It is said that behind every great bear, there stands a brilliant but ruthless woman with multiple personalities and a superb sense of fashion. That woman, of course, is Junko Enoshima, depicted here by nya-tta, and I only regret that DESPAIR MAIL is not in color, so you could appreciate the rose quartz luster with which nya-tta imbued the mastermind of menace.



Mirjam Rajamets writes to say: "I'd like to thank Dark Horse so much for serializing *Danganronpa: The Animation*! I'm a big fan of *Danganronpa* (especially the games) and I'm very glad to also have the manga now! What I really like is that you include the DESPAIR MAIL section in every volume. It's interesting to see the other fans' pictures and comments. Here's a little contribution from me: a drawing of Ibuki Mioda, one of my favourite characters from the second game. I hope you can include this in vol. 4 of the manga!" Well, you see what I meant about patience—we couldn't include it in volume 4 of *Danganronpa: The Animation* . . . it had to wait for volume 2 of *Danganronpa 2: Ultimate Luck and Hope and Despair*! On the other hand, as Mirjam points out, Ibuki, the Ultimate Musician, is from the second game and not the first...so maybe she's right on time . . . ? I think she might have my favorite hairstyle out of all the characters, by the way. And that's saying something!



Stephanie Miller (chibbycookie) writes in to say: "I've been a huge huge huge fan of *Danganronpa* (or dangle rumps as me and my friends have called it) and I've always had a deep love for the character of Sakura Ogami. She's the character I relate to most, due to her dedication to her friends and self-sacrificial attitude! (I also have a collection of pins and merch dedicated to her but that's beside the point). I love her so much that I decided to cosplay her! I feel like she is the picture of what a true friend should be! I'm so happy that the manga version is being released! Thank you guys!" I'm sure many readers already know this, but Sakura's stoic repose in death—as Stephanie so well reenacts here—was itself a tribute to one of the most famous shots in all of manga (and later anime), from *Ashita no Joe* by Tetsuya Chiba.



Maheen Syed sends this contribution with these remarks: "Hiya, so as I was reading your splendid manga, I decided I would draw Mondo (with some puppies!) since he is my favourite character out of all the games. I only got into *Danganronpa* a few months ago and I'm already a super fan. I'm so glad that Dark Horse gave us the opportunity to see a manga of *Trigger Happy Havoc* and HOPEfully future games! (Hide from Nagito.) I'm so glad that *Danganronpa* is becoming more popular but I don't wish for it to become that big of a fandom that it dies out quickly. Yet again, thank you so much for bringing *Danganronpa* to England!" Thanks, Maheen! British fans have had a lot of influence on me, ever since that moment at Anime Expo '92 when I saw someone walking down the hall with a copy of an amazing magazine from that era, *Anime UK*. It was edited by Helen McCarthy, a journalist and author who became one of my sempai, and someone that I still very much look up to.



Ashley Lizotte writes in to say, "I'm a huge fan of the whole *Danganronpa* series and recently got finished with Another Episode, so I drew a portrait of Komaru!" Say, it would be a good idea if in the future, we published a manga based on Another Episode. Don't you think so . . . ? Maybe we should do that . . . ? ^_~

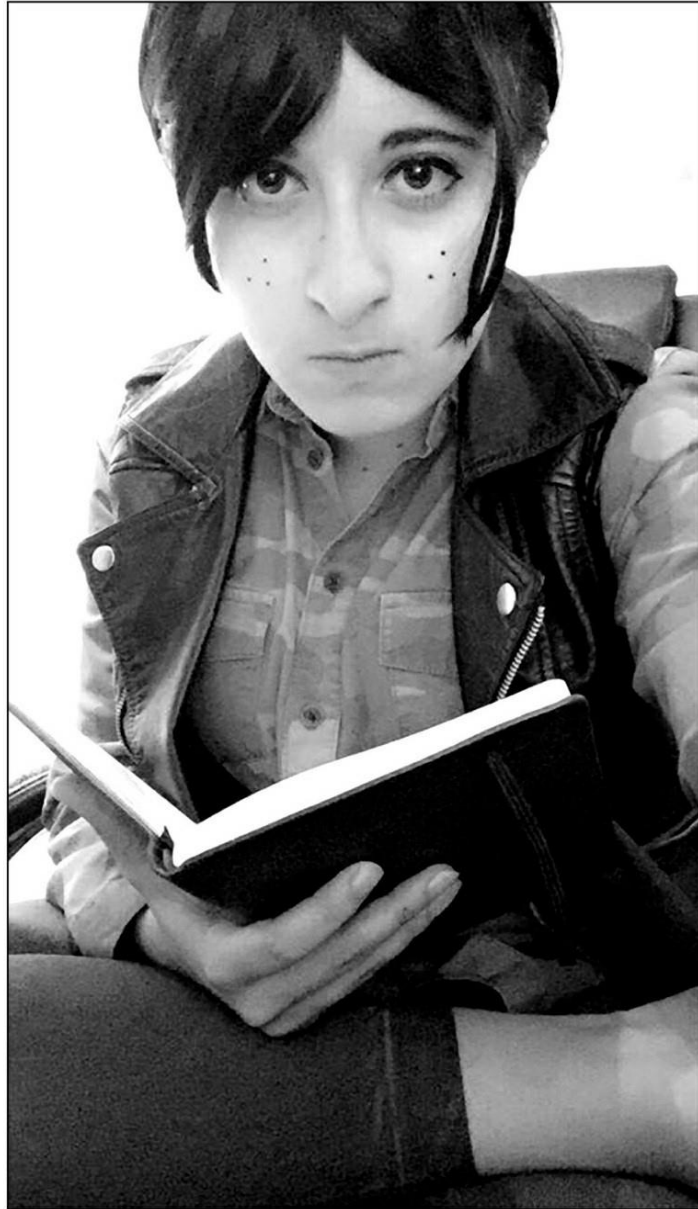


Sarah Haddad, a contributor to our previous series *Danganronpa: The Animation*, returns with this *Danganronpa 2* piece and says, "Hey there! I just wanted to say thank you for featuring me in the fan art section of the *Danganronpa* manga volumes 3 and 4. It means a whole lot to me! If the *Danganronpa* series continues please consider me again! :) Also if there are any fan art pages in any other manga let me know, I would love to do more! Thanks again!"

We (that is, Dark Horse) don't have any other regular fan art sections in our other manga at the moment, although in the past we had long-running ones for previous series such as *Blade of the Immortal*, *Evangelion*, *Oh My Goddess!*, and *Oreimo*, among others. As you may know, Dark Horse is also one of the oldest independent comic book companies in the United States, and fan letter columns are an important part of the comics tradition, so naturally we brought it into our manga.

It's hard to predict, however, what kind of response we'll get. For example, we published several *Vocaloid* manga, *Fate/Zero*, and *Psycho-Pass*, all of which certainly have a lot of fans, but I don't remember anyone ever sending in any fan art, cosplay photos, or letters for those titles. To be fair, readers may not have realized they could do so, because we didn't have a formal fan section in those books (although we would have probably printed contributions if we'd received them).

So you might be in a situation where you have a fan section, but no one shows up ^_^ Sometimes I even did some fan art myself, just to get things going. By contrast, as you know, *Danganronpa* fans are very active about sending in contributions!



AnekiCosplay (on Instagram) says: "I've done a lot of *Danganronpa* cosplay ~ My most fav thing is the Despair Sisters duo :) Upupupuu. Here's Mukuro from when she sang 'Tsubasa o kudasai' in *Danganronpa 3: The End of Hope's Peak High School* (Despair Arc, Episode 7)."



And here's Junko: "Junko is one of my most favorite villains and characters of all time. I love everything from her first entrance in the anime to the fact that you simply cannot kill this villain—hero, in my case. I can never get enough of these two XD TEAM DESPAIR ALL THE WAY UPUPUPU . . ."



"My cosplay name is Miss.Mioda and I have both a Facebook page and an Instagram account! *Danganronpa* as a series means a lot to me! All the characters are relatable and have helped me and improved my life so much. The show has helped me get through bereavement and boosted my body confidence. The community is also amazing and all the people I hold dear and close to my heart I have met through the fandom xxx"

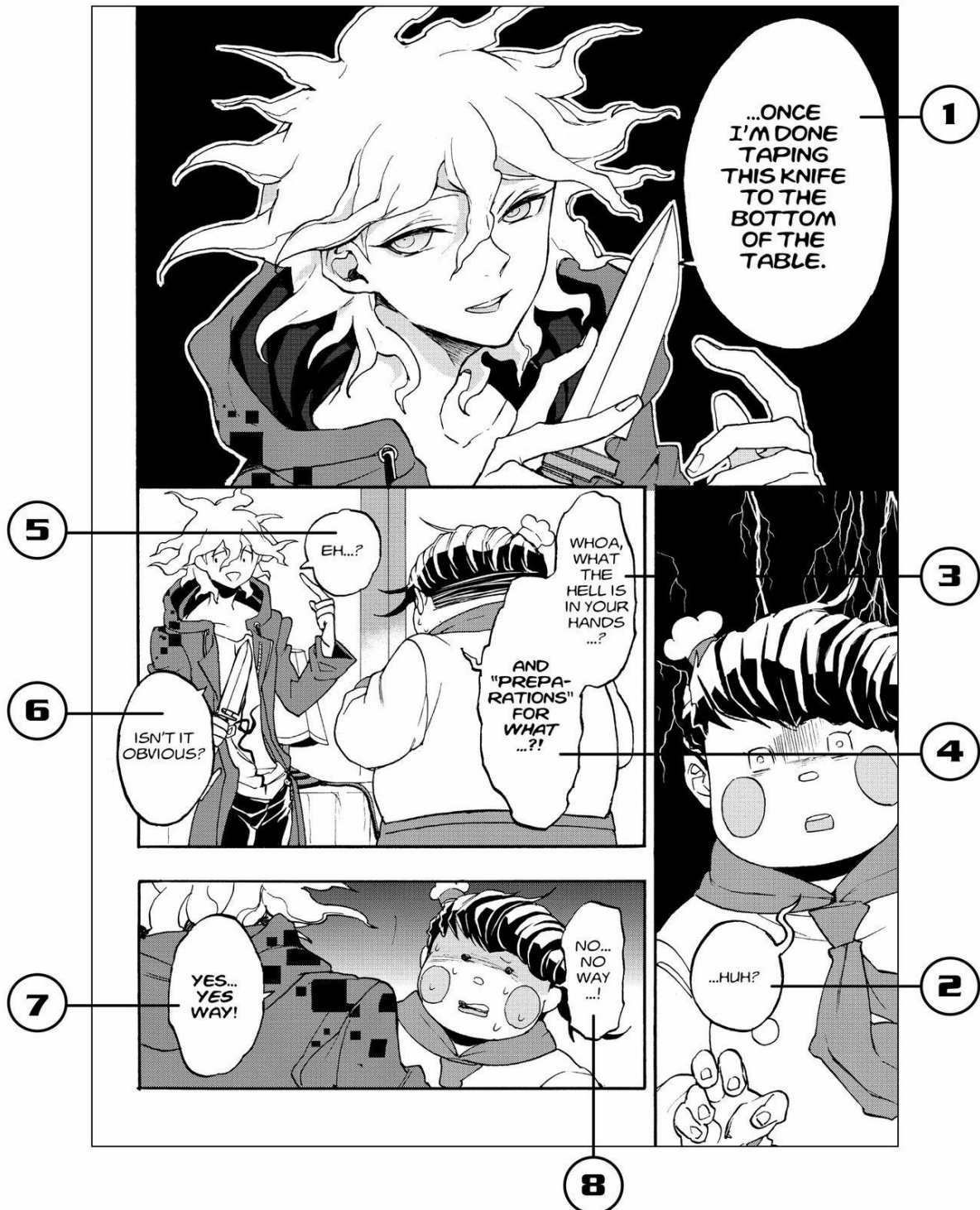


And here's also Miss.Mioda as Aoi Asahina—as if to say, here's looking at you (you've heard of Portland's Voodoo Doughnuts, but if you visit here, also try Blue Star—there's one in the airport!) . . . and see you all in vol. 3, the conclusion of *Danganronpa 2: Ultimate Luck and Hope and Despair!*

—CGH

NOW, PLEASE PAY CLOSE ATTENTION . . .

Nagito Komaeda, the Ultimate Lucky Student, would like to remind you that this is a manga, and like most manga, it reads right-to-left. Don't read it left-to-right, or you might miss some important clues. Also, reading it that way would be COMPLETELY INSANE.



CLASS IS BACK IN SESSION!

THEY SAY IF YOU CAN'T STAND THE HEAT, GET OUT OF THE KITCHEN . . . but the one who's in the hot seat is Ultimate Cook Teruteru Hanamura, on trial for the murder of Byakuya Togami! Revealing his true nature in the courtroom, Nagito forces his fellow students to realize they don't truly know or understand each other. It'll take all of Hajime's cunning, along with the help of his classmates, to cleave a path to the awful truth!

